

# The History of the Matesky, Lutsky, and Garbus Families

Russian Origins and Settlement in  
the United States and Israel  
in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries



Leonard A. Jewler

The History of the Matesky, Lutsky, and Garbus Families  
Third edition

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Photos on title page are of three generations of Matesky, Lutsky, and Garbus families:

Top row from left (first generation): Eliezer and Sarah Lea Matesky

Second row from left (second generation): Michel Lutsky & Chava Matesky, Mordechai Garbus & Frumah  
Matesky, Eliyahu Matesky & Ita Shapiro

Third row from left (third generation): Nathan, Solomon, Hannah, Bernard, Meyer, Rivka, Jacob, & Judith Lutsky

Fourth row from left (third generation): Minnie, Chava, Golda, Nisson, Israel, Itzik, & Shmuel Garbus

Fifth row from left (third generation): Dov, Hayim, Israel, Freidel, Sara, & Judith Matesky

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## DEDICATION

In memory of those departed:

To Solomon who walked his path with dignity,  
To Minnie who embraced her world with vitality,  
    To Muriel whose smile could conquer,  
To Sam who labored steadfastly and generously.

    And to one, Esther,  
    Whose love reaches out,  
    And whose spirit radiates  
        Through the years.

    May their tale be told  
    Through the generations.



## EPIGRAPH

*A life story told is a chapter in the epic of mankind. It stands apart with its own challenges, victories, and defeats; yet, at the same time, it is firmly woven into the fabric of lives spanning the generations. It is a personal yet universal saga.*

Leonard Jewler



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*Az men geyt glaykh, falt men nit.*

He that walks straight will not stumble.

Yiddish Proverb

## PREFACE

*The History of the Matesky, Lutsky, and Garbus Families* presents the history of three families over nearly two centuries, from the earliest known ancestors in mid-nineteenth century Czarist Russia through descendants in the early twenty-first century. It includes those who lived in the ancestral towns and those who traveled to the United States and Israel seeking new lives. A narrative thread runs throughout the history that presents the voices of family members sharing their life experiences both in the old country and in their new homes. Vintage photos are included from diverse branches of the family that represent different points in time and locales. In addition, for each period, the historical context is provided to establish a framework for understanding the narrative.

This is a maternal history and as such it traces the origins of the family of my mother, Esther Lutsky Jewler. This second edition significantly updates the draft version which was published in 2000 in honor of Esther's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and a final version in December 2002 under the title *The Story of Esther Lutsky Jewler and her Family*. Since that time, I have completed work on my paternal history, *The Zuler Chronicles*, and I have incorporated some lessons learned from that book in this version. Specifically, I have reorganized the book into two parts – one presenting the broad family origins and the other chronicling my grandparents' family; consolidated the family's Holocaust experience in a chapter; and added sections documenting the lives of close family members who have passed away. In addition, I have increased the references to sources, included family tree analytics, and improved the image quality. I have also revised the title to be more informative with regard to the content.

Importantly, this version has been organized in two parts. Part I covers the history of Eliezer and Sara Lea Matesky and the first three generations from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century through the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century; Part II covers the history of Solomon and Minnie Lutsky, my maternal grandparents, and their descendants from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century through the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. One new chapter on the Holocaust presents the story of the family still living in Poland during World War II – those few who survived and the many who did not. In addition, new material – photos, maps, and text – is included throughout the book to provide richer content. New vintage photos have been included and photos of poor quality have been edited and improved. Finally, the size of the document, due to the increased content, is now larger than the first version.

Where possible, family and historical photos are provided along with maps relevant to the topic. Photo albums of Solomon and Minnie Lutsky (Esther's parents) and of Esther were obtained. Many of the earlier photos were sent by relatives in Palestine and Eastern Europe and had inscriptions on their reverse sides that were written in Hebrew or Yiddish. Assistance in translating these inscriptions was obtained from two sources. One was Esther's first cousin, Michael Netser, who is fluent in Hebrew, Yiddish, and English. Michael Netser lives in Holon, Israel. I scanned the front and back of historical family photos and sent them to Michael electronically. Michael then translated the inscriptions and returned them to me. In several instances, Michael received historical photos of his family that he had never seen. The other translator was Esther's grandson's piano teacher, Liova Kaplan, who was fluent in Hebrew, Yiddish, Russian, and English.

This history is based on research and interviews with family members. I conducted a primary interview with my mother on July 31, 1993 at her home in Leisure World, which was located in Silver Spring, Maryland. The interview was videotaped, and I subsequently transcribed it in August 2000. The transcribed interview was then partitioned into sections and organized sequentially. This organized and sequenced interview became the narrative basis for the book.

The narrative thread is provided by Esther's own account which, along with the other interviewees, are presented in italics. Historical context and personal commentary have been woven throughout.

A constant theme in Esther Lutsky Jewler's life was devotion to her family – her faithful giving to her parents, husband, and children, and her steady involvement with other relations both close and removed. An aspect of this devotion is Esther's treasure trove of family stories, which she recounted for incorporation in this chronicle. Indeed, her unfailing memory for family stories makes this narrative possible.

This narrative was first undertaken as an account of Esther's life to honor her on her 80th birthday. It has evolved to become a chronicle of the Matesky, Lutsky, and Garbus families tracing their origins in 19th century Czarist Russia through the 21st century in America and Israel. It is hoped that the Matesky, Lutsky, and Garbus families – current and future generations – will find it valuable to know their family origins.

In addition to Esther herself, there were three other sources of family history. An interview conducted by Leonard with Esther's mother, Minnie (Garbus) Lutsky, in 1962 (in Silver Spring, Maryland) provided insight into the Garbus family life in the shtetl Lahishyn in the first decade of the 20th century. An e-mail dialog begun in 2000 between Leonard (in Washington, D.C.) and Michael Netser (in Holon, Israel) revealed the story of Michel and Chava Lutsky (Solomon's parents) who were Jewish pioneers in Palestine in the mid-1880s. A phone interview conducted in 2000 by Leonard and Esther (in Silver Spring, Maryland) with Esther's cousin, Leah (Garbus) Dolvopiat (in Bronx, New York), provided information on the Garbus family in eastern Poland between the World Wars.

Finally, family and friends have contributed reminiscences, testimonials, and stories about Esther. Esther's daughter, Barbara Jewler, developed a list of Esther's family and friends and solicited the contributions that are included throughout. Barbara also wrote portions of the sections The House on Eighth Street and Esther and Sam's Later Years.

Note that genealogy data obtained primarily from Esther was entered into "Family Tree Maker" and then manipulated and formatted to produce the family trees contained herein. The data, where known, includes first and last names, birth and death dates, birth and death locations, gender, and relationships (i.e., parents, children, siblings, or spouses.) A formatting convention for family trees was adopted in which males are displayed with a single line box and females with a double line box. Where a name is not known, it is represented as "FirstNameUnk" or "LastNameUnk".

I thank my dear departed sister, Barbara Jewler, for her contributions to this book.

Primary research sources used in writing this book included the following:

- *JewishGen.org*. This web site offers a range of research and user dialog capabilities to Jewish genealogists. I utilized their ShtetlSeeker database to locate the family towns based on spoken interview references. I also utilized detailed information available on individual towns.
- *Ancestry.com*. This site provides a wealth of genealogy resources. It supports searches of historical records by name, birth, marriage, and death, and includes historical documents such as census, immigration, and city directories.

- *U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum*. This was the source of an extensive interview with Semyon Menyuk, a Holocaust survivor, and information on the fate of the Jews in Europe during World War II.
- *Yad Vashem*. This was the source of information on Jewish communities in Europe and their destruction during World War II.
- *Yizkor books*. These books provide first-hand accounts of pre-war life in European Jewish communities and their destruction in World War II.

Significant software tools that were used included the following:

- *Family Tree Maker*. This genealogy software was used to document the family tree and create the various reports and tables.
- *Microsoft Excel*. This spreadsheet application was used to analyze and report the data collected on family members.
- *Microsoft Word*. This word processing software was used to create the book.
- *Adobe Lightroom*. This photo editing software was used to edit the photos used.

The following table presents the set of family history interviews, conducted by others and me, which were utilized in this book. The interviews provide first-hand accounts of individual lives, as well as the identification of family names, dates, and places.

Family History Interviews

Date	Interviewees	Family Line	Interviewer	Birth Year	Spouse	Medium
Dec. 17, 1962	<b>Minnie (Garbus) Lutsky</b>	Garbus	Leonard Jewler	1898	Solomon Lutsky	Notes
Jul. 31, 1993	<b>Esther (Lutsky) Jewler</b>	Lutsky & Garbus	Leonard Jewler	1920	Samuel M. Jewler	Videotape, digital
Nov. 19, 2000	<b>Leah Dolvopiat</b>	Garbus	Leonard & Esther Jewler	1923	Philip Flaks	Notes
2000 to 2018	<b>Micha Netser</b>	Lutsky & Matesky	Leonard Jewler	1930	Ofra Shraga	Digital

# INTRODUCTION

## Overview

*The History of the Matesky, Lutsky, and Garbus Families* presents the history of these families in their great transition from centuries of living in Czarist Russia to a new life in the United States and Israel. The narrative captures the voices of family members who are the link between the old and the new worlds – they were born in the old country, crossed the ocean, and settled in a new land. Through the voices of these pioneers and their reconstructed history, current and future generations can learn the story of one extended family and its epochal transition over a century from one world to another – an experience both unique and yet emblematic of countless others.

As stated, the book is organized in two parts. Part I presents the history of the Matesky, Lutsky, and Garbus families from the mid-nineteenth to mid-twentieth centuries. Part II presents the history of the family of Solomon and Minnie Lutsky, the family of my mother, Esther Lutsky Jewler. The chapters are organized by chronological period. Within each period, the historical context is established with text and period photos, and oral histories are presented with available family photos and supporting documentation. Data analyses are included on over 400 family members.

The chapters of the book are as follows:

### Part I – The Family of Eliezer and Sara Lea Matesky

- **Origins in Czarist Russia** describes the first generations and provides an historical context
- **The Matesky Family Lines** introduces the known lines including Michel Lutsky and Chava Matesky, Mordechai Garbus and Frumah Matesky, and Eliyahu Matesky and Ita Shapiro
- **Migration from Russia** recounts stories of escape, historical records, and the experience of the journey.
- **The Matesky Family and the Holocaust** describes the fate of family members during the Holocaust including those killed and those who survived
- **Lutsky Family Reunion** describes a multi-generational reunion held in New Jersey in May 2019

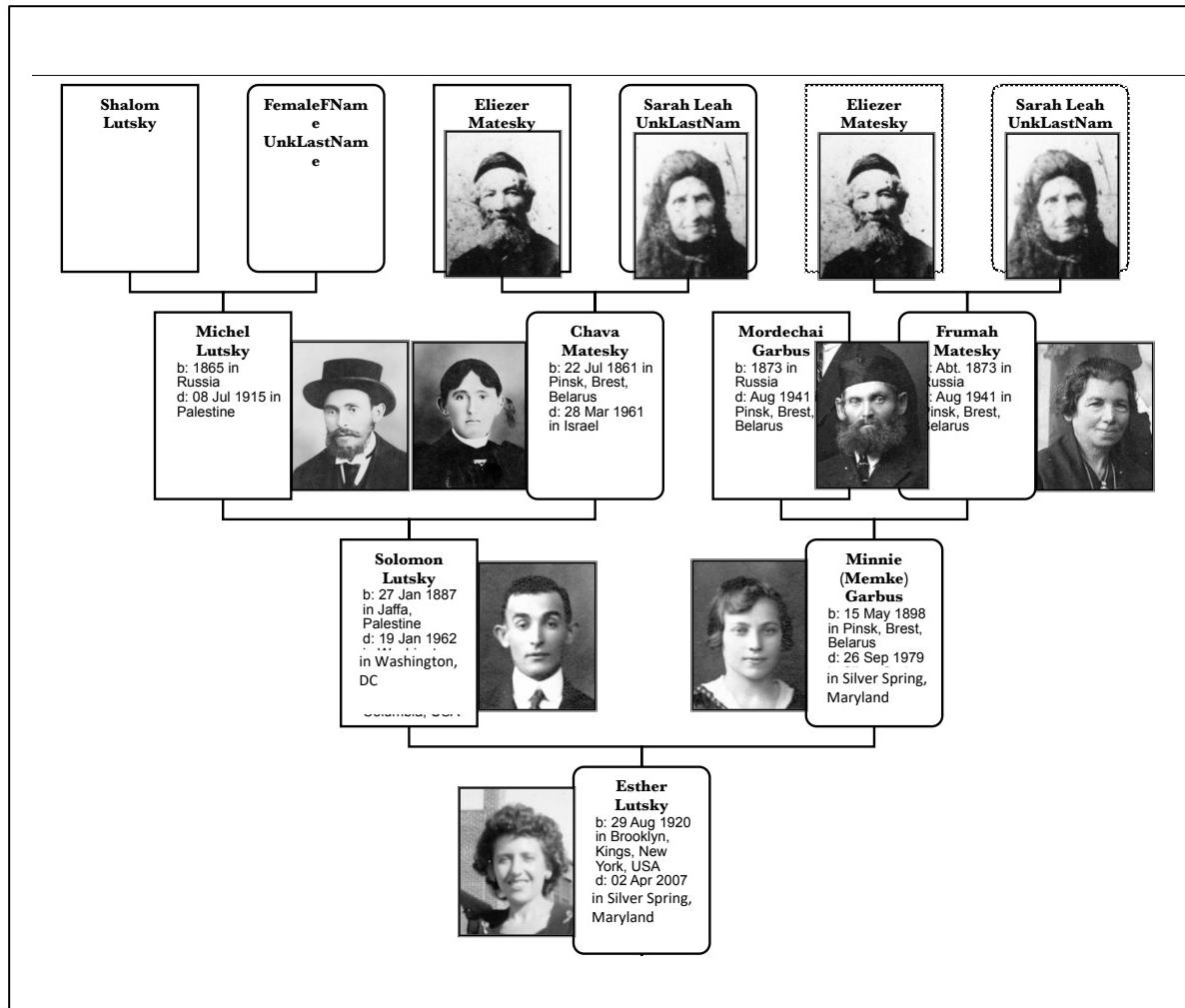
### Part II – The Family of Solomon and Minnie Lutsky

- **The Lutsky Family in New York** describes their early family life and businesses and recounts stories about Minnie.
- **Esther Jewler in Washington** recounts Esther's work and marriage to Samuel Jewler.
- **The Family in Washington** describes Esther and Samuel's early years, the family business, the house on Eighth Street in Washington, and their later years.
- **Later Years of Sam and Esther's Family** describes the later years of their nuclear family
- **Family Losses and the Next Generation** describes the lives of family members who have died and the marriages of the next generation

## Appendices

- **Appendix A:** Lutsky and Matesky family trees are provided.
- **Appendix B: More Reminiscences of Esther** provides additional testimonials celebrating Esther in commemoration of her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- **Appendix C:** A chronology is provided of significant events in the lives of Solomon and Minnie's family.
- **Appendix D:** A bibliography is provided of books and internet sites referenced in conducting historical research and obtaining historical photographs.

It must be noted that Esther's parents were first cousins and were from two branches of the Matesky family. Her father's parents were Michel Lutsky and Chava Matesky and her mother's parents were Mordechai Garbus and Frumah Matesky. Her two grandmothers, Chava and Frumah Matesky, were sisters.



Ancestors of Esther Lutsky Jewler

## Origins of Family Names

A brief history of the origin of Jewish surnames in Eastern Europe is presented that is adapted from YIVO.<sup>1</sup>

The great majority of European Jews took their surnames from the end of the eighteenth century to the middle of the nineteenth, when state legislation required the adoption of hereditary names. The first law was promulgated in 1787 by Emperor Joseph II and was applied to all Jews of the Habsburg Empire. In Polish provinces annexed by Prussia in 1795, many names were assigned by Prussian clerks after the law of 1797.

Here, as elsewhere, almost all names were drawn from German vocabulary. After the Napoleonic wars, some of these regions were incorporated into Congress Poland, then a part of the Russian Empire. There in 1821, a law obliged local Jews to take family names. For many people, the appellations assigned previously by Austrian and Prussian officials were restored; for others, Polish clerks chose new names. In northeastern Congress Poland, numerous habitational names ending in -ski resulted.

In the Pale of Settlement, a law forcing all Jews to acquire family names was passed in 1804. The authorities in Jewish communities were responsible for implementing the process. No regulations restricted the selection of surnames. A great number of appellations were created in Yiddish and Hebrew; others came from Ukrainian and Belorussian words. Often these names were immediately Russified, as Russian was the official language of the empire. Most often, surnames were created from place-names in the Pale of Settlement. These were particularly common in the Kiev and Grodno areas, where they mainly ended in -ski. In Volhynia and Podolia, many names ended in the Yiddish suffix -er.

Some Jewish surnames were derived from a male personal name of an ancestor. This description is adapted from a web site at Bet Hatfutot.<sup>2</sup>

A patronymic is a name derived from a male personal name. The male personal names are for the most part Hebrew names, either biblical or post biblical Hebrew. There are also some names of Greek and Aramaic origin. The next group of patronyms is made up of vernacular or secular names. These names could be Yiddish equivalents or nicknames of the Hebrew name or one derived from a European language. In any case, they too are patronyms that became the source of family names. A patronym is basically the use of a father's or grandfather's given name as the hereditary family surname.

Finally, an explanation is given regarding the Polish practice of establishing names which have the suffix "ski".<sup>3</sup>

What does -ski mean? In Polish it's an adjectival suffix, meaning simply "of, from, connected with, pertaining to." The form X-ski is an all-purpose way of saying "somehow associated with X." While many such names refer to places, a lot of -ski names don't refer to places at all. This suffix can be added to all kinds of roots, whether they refer to an ancestor's place of residence or origin, his occupation, or his first name.

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<sup>1</sup> "Names and Naming", YIVO Encyclopedia, <http://www.yivoencyclopedia.org/printarticle.aspx?id=2126> (accessed March 2018)

<sup>2</sup> "Database of Jewish Family Names at Beit Hatfutot", <https://www.bh.org.il/databases/family-names/jewish-family-names-introduction/> (accessed March 2018)

<sup>3</sup> "Basic Explanation of Surname Endings", Polish Roots, <http://www.polishroots.org/Resources/SurnameSearch/Surnamesendings/tabcid/118/Default.aspx> (accessed March 2018)

The origins of several prominent family names are discussed.

**Matesky.** According to Micah Netser and confirmed by research, “*Mates*” is the Yiddish version of the name “*Matityahu*” (מַתִּיָּהוּ) which means “the gift of God”. “*Mates*” combined with the Polish suffix “ski” results in “*Mateski*” or “*Matesky*” depending on which Anglicized spelling is used. Thus, the name would be a patronymic since it was derived from a male personal name.

**Lutsky.** Lutsk is a city on the Styr River in northwestern Ukraine. It is approximately 130 miles from Pinsk. Both Lutsk and Pinsk were located within the Pale of Settlement imposed by the czars during the period of the Russian Empire. It is likely that earlier ancestors of the family lived in Pinsk and using the name of the city to form the family surname based on “Lutsk” and “sky” meaning “of or from Lutsk”. This would thus be a toponym, a surname based on a location.

**Garbus.** According to Ancestry.com, Garbus is a Jewish name from Belarus<sup>4</sup>. Specifically, it is a nickname from Belorussian word “garbuz” which is a pumpkin. Apparently, it is used figuratively to denote “a decrepit old man”. Perhaps this was a case in which the surname was assigned by a government clerk as happened in some cases.

## The Matesky Family Tree

### Data Analysis

I collected the names, birth and death dates, and locations of family members and entered the data in genealogy software.<sup>5</sup> In March 2018, I added a significant number of additional names when I received a Matesky family tree report from Micha Netser who had been collecting information in Israel. There were eight children of the earliest known ancestors, Eliezer and Sara Lea Matesky, who were likely born in the 1830s. Of the eight children, three left a substantial legacy of descendants – Chava, Frumah, and Eliyahu. When descendants are counted by individual family line, the total is 489. However, some members belong to more than one line due to intermarriage and the total of unique individuals is 415.

Matesky Descendants by Family Line

Matesky Sibling	Family line	Descendants
Marsha	Pilchik	13
Memka	Begin	7
Chava	Lutsky	307
Frumah	Garbus	70
Hershel	Matesky (Heshel)	1
Feigel	Sanderovitz	2
Dina	Klitnik	5
Eliyahu	Matesky (Eliyahu)	94
<b>Total (unique)</b>		<b>415</b>

<sup>4</sup> “Garbus name meaning”, <https://www.ancestry.com/name-origin?surname=garbus> (accessed March 2018)

<sup>5</sup> The family tree data is based on interviews with Esther Lutsky Jewler and Lea Dolvopiat, a family tree provided by Micha Netser, and my research on Ancestry.com. The data, however, may not be complete. The family tree was updated and analyzed in March 2018. Currently there is no mechanism for updating the family tree with on-going births, deaths, and marriages

An analysis was performed of the most frequently occurring surnames<sup>6</sup> in the family tree. (This includes given names as of 2018.) The top six surnames (those with at least 14 occurrences) account for 103 of the 415 family members, which represents 25 percent of the family. Surnames with five or more occurrences account for 222 of the 415 family members, which represents 53 percent of the family. Out of the 415 individuals, 205 were male and 209 were female.

#### Major Matesky Surnames

Surname	Count	Male	Female	Earliest	Most recent
Lewis	23	15	8	1914	1989
Lutsky	18	7	11	1863	1958
Matesky	17	7	10	1861	1933
Goren	16	11	5	1949	1983
Levi	15	12	3	1932	2012
Garbus	14	7	7	1898	1945
Gefen	10	8	2	1947	1975
Shlomovitz	10	3	7	1916	1983
Hersh	9	5	4	1914	2002
Pilchick	9	5	4	1898	1926
Parnes	8	3	5	1913	1971
Cohen	7	4	3	1932	1992
Gal-Ed	7	4	3	1931	1987
Gorfein	7	4	3	1941	1998
Katz	7	2	5	1929	1987
Nagel	7	2	5	1908	1980
Netser	7	2	5	1930	2007
Begin	6	4	2		
Berg	5	2	3	1920	1992
Kalderon	5	3	2	1969	1969
Regev	5	2	3	1957	1995
Stein	5	4	1	1954	1985
Treister	5	2	3	1940	1972
Valinski	5	3	2	1909	1975
<b>Total</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>101</b>		

Using the data in the family tree, an analysis was performed of the places where family members were born, lived, and died. It must be noted that the location data is incomplete in the family tree, so the analysis total (284) does not equal the total number of individuals in the database (415). However, since it represents two thirds of the data, the results provide a broad indication of the locales where the family has lived, both historically and currently.

At a high level, the location data was analyzed to determine the number of individuals who were born, lived in, and died in one region versus those who moved from one region to another over the course of their lives. The data shows that most individuals stayed in one region.

#### Family Birth, Domicile, and Death Locations by Number of Regions

One versus Two Regions	Count
One region	254
Two regions	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>284</b>

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<sup>6</sup> Note that female surnames are their given names not those they may have adopted when married.

Each of these two groups was examined as to the particular regions. The data shows that the largest number of individuals who stayed in one place did so in Israel, followed by the United States, and then Eastern Europe. For those who traveled to a second region, the largest number did so from Eastern Europe to Israel.

Family Birth, Domicile, and Death in one Region

Regions	Count
Eastern Europe	22
Israel	143
United States	89
<b>Total</b>	<b>154</b>

Family Birth, Domicile, and Death in two Regions

Regions	Count
Eastern Europe to Israel	15
Eastern Europe to US	9
Israel/Palestine to US	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

The data was examined to determine the most prominent areas within each region. Only those with birth, domicile, and death in one region are analyzed since the numbers are too small for those who traveled to another region.

Family Birth, Domicile, and Death in one Region by Area

Regions	Areas within Regions	Count
<b>Eastern Europe</b>	Pinsk & Poland	<b>22</b>
<b>Israel</b>	Israel (general)	72
	Tel Aviv	15
	Rishon LeZion	12
	Rehovot	11
	Petach Tikvah	7
	Tel HaShomer	6
	Other	20
<b>Israel Total</b>		<b>143</b>
<b>United States</b>	United States (general)	22
	New York area	32
	Washington DC area	10
	Los Angeles	5
	Other	20
<b>United States Total</b>		<b>89</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>154</b>

## **Matesky Family Intermarriages**

There were several instances of first cousins marrying. This was not unusual in the period in which it occurred, the early twentieth century. The known instances are:

- Solomon Lutsky married Minnie Garbus. Solomon's mother, Chava Matesky was a sister of Minnie's mother, Frumah Matesky.
- Hayim Matesky married Rivka Lutsky. Hayim's father, Eliyahu Matesky was a brother to Rivka's mother, Chava Matesky.
- Isadore Klitnick married Fannie Pilchik. Isadore's mother, Dina Matesky was a sister to Fannie's mother, Marsha Matesky.

## **Matesky Family Twins**

There were several instances of twins born in the family. The known instances are:

- Yaakov and Yehudit Lutsky were born on Dec. 26, 1902 to Michel Lutsky and Chava Matesky.
- Esther and Susan were born likely in the 1920s to Golda Garbus and her husband (name unknown.) All four were killed by the Nazis in Pinsk during World War II.
- Morgan and Zachary Hersh were born on xx 1997 to Jeffrey and Laura Hersh. Jeffrey is a descendant of Chava Matesky and Michael Lutsky, and Frumah Matesky and Mordechai Garbus.
- Jonas and Noah Sideman were born on Dec. 28, 2017 to Sarah Lewis and David Sideman. Sarah is a descendant of Chava Matesky and Michel Lutsky.

## PROLOGUE

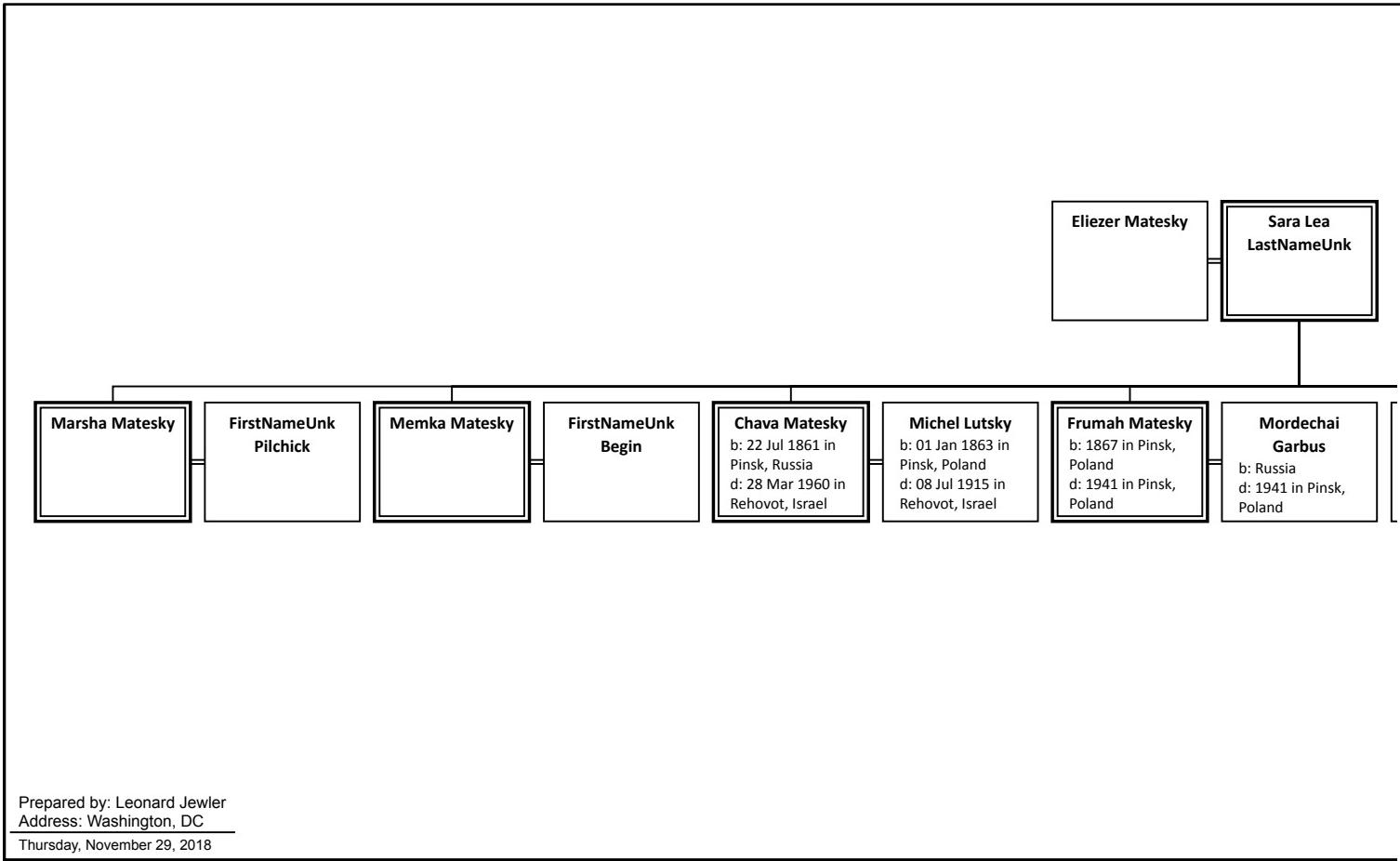
In the 1830s in the Pale of Settlement where Jews were confined in the Russian Empire, a boy and a girl, Eliezer and Sara Lea, were born to two families. It is likely that they grew up in the same locale and learned to survive under the oppressive regime of Czar Nicholas I who instituted numerous anti-Jewish decrees during his reign. The two, as young adults in the 1850s, eventually married, most likely in a marriage arranged by a *shadkhn* (matchmaker). As Jews in Czarist Russia, they were subject to difficult living conditions. Despite pogroms, repressive policies, and economic discrimination, they were destined to beget a family, which would continue their line through several generations for nearly two hundred years; a family, which would prosper far away in North America and in Israel. The young couple's surname was Matesky.

Eliezer and Sara Lea are known to have had eight children, two boys and six girls, in the Minsk Gubernia (Province) of the Pale of Settlement in what is today southwestern Belarus. Birth dates are known for two of the children: Chava Matesky was born in 1861 and Eliyahu Matesky was born in 1876. With a sixteen-year gap between Chava and Eliyahu, it can be inferred that Chava is one of the older children. With the assumption that Eliezer and Sara Lea began having children in their early to mid-twenties, then they were likely born in the mid 1830s. The children and spouses of Eliezer and Sara Lea Matesky are presented in the figure on the following page.

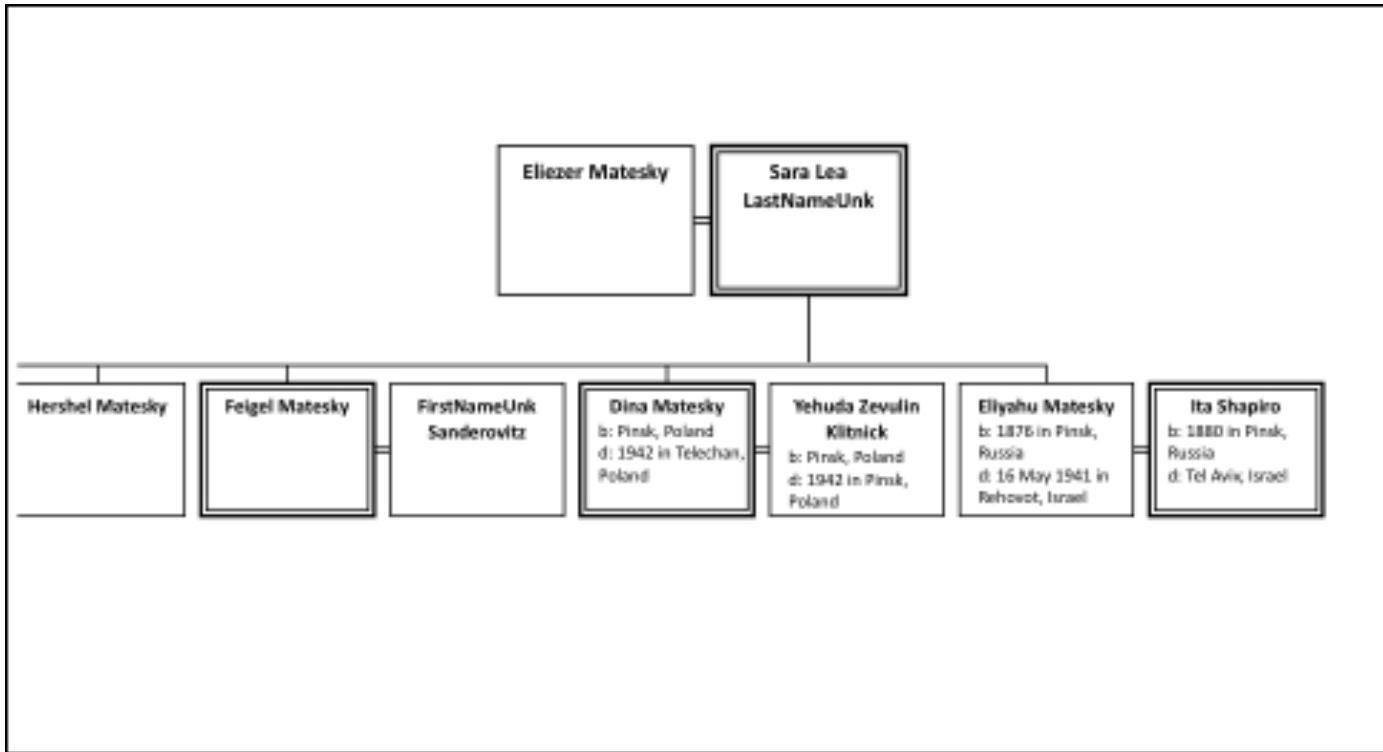
Over the years, members of the family lived primarily in three locations in Minsk Gubernia – the village of Stoshany, the town of Lahishyn, and the city of Pinsk. Lahishyn was seven miles west of Stoshany, and Pinsk was fifteen miles south of Stoshany and Lahishyn.



Eliezer and Sara Lea Matesky, latter 19<sup>th</sup> century



Eliezer and Sara Leah Matesky's children and their spouses (page 1 of 2)



Eliezer and Sara Leah Matesky's children and their spouses (page 2 of 2)

Seven of the eight children eventually married – Hershel did not. Information is available on the families of the other seven children but most attention is given to the three largest family lines, those of Chava, Frumah, and Eliyahu. The children of the second-generation siblings were born in the 1880s through the early 1900s. The already miserable life of the Jews became unbearable after Czar Alexander II was murdered in 1881 and the new Russian government launched a series of pogroms and anti-Jewish acts which continued into the next century. Over two million Jews fled the persecution and despair during this period.

Two of the three aforementioned second generation Mateskys joined the exodus from the Pale with their families – Chava and Michel Lutsky, and Eliyahu and Ita Matesky traveled to Palestine to begin new lives. Three third generation children of Frumah Matesky and Mordechai Garbus traveled either to the United States or to Palestine. Others remained in Minsk Gubernia, only to be subjected to additional horrors visited by the invading Germans during World War II.

At this time, little is known of the founding Matesky couple who likely married in the 1850s - the Matesky patriarch and matriarch, Eliezer and Sara Lea Matesky. However, several years of research have resulted in the identification of the succeeding generations that arose from three of the couple's eight children – Chava, Frumah, and Eliyahu. As of 2018, a total of 415 individuals in seven generations have been identified.

When Eliezer and Sara Lea began their family with eight children, they could not have known that over the next two centuries they would have over 400 descendants and that the locus of the family would shift from its centuries long home in eastern Europe to far away America and Israel. Jews had lived in Eastern Europe for upwards of a thousand years and the Matesky family, like so many others, likely could not remember a time when they had lived elsewhere. Yet the forces of history at work around the turn of the twentieth century would drive many family members to leave their ancestral homes in Europe and seek new lives elsewhere.

Eliezer and Sara Lea could not have foreseen that a descendant, four generations later would attempt to reconstruct the arc of the family that they begat, would try to identify the people, places, and history of their progeny. And yet, that is what I seek to accomplish with this book. As Europeans who settled in America one or two generations ago, we have suffered a collective rupture with our historic past. What can we learn about ourselves from knowledge of our family origins and the experiences of our ancestors in their ancient home and the journey to their new one? Is it possible to retrieve something of the lives of our lost ancestors and establish the story of our family?

*When we have passed a certain age, the soul of the child we were and the souls of the dead from whom we have sprung come to lavish on us their riches and their spells.<sup>7</sup>*

This book presents the history of the Matesky families from the earliest known ancestors in Czarist Russia in the mid-nineteenth century through descendants living primarily in the United States and Israel in the early twenty-first century. Based on interviews and research, it identifies early family members in Russia, recounts stories of their lives in the old country, and their establishment in the new homelands.

This is the story of these families through the generations.

<sup>7</sup> Marcel Proust, *In Search of Lost Time (The Captive)*, cited in *The Lost* by Daniel Mendelsohn. (Harper Perennial, 2006)

## **PART I – THE FAMILY OF ELIEZER AND SARA LEA MATESKY**

## The Family in Czarist Russia

### *The First Generations*

As stated, Eliezer and Sara Lea had eight known children who were estimated to have been born in the 1850s through 1870s. These children would have spent their early years, from the 1850s to the 1870s, under the more relaxed reign of Alexander II. It is estimated that the second generation married in the 1870s to 1890s and began having families.

Marsha Matesky married a man with the name of Pilchik and they had four children. Memka Matesky married a man with the name of Begin and they had five children. Chava Matesky married Michel Lutsky and they had eight children. A chapter is devoted to their lives. Frumah Matesky married Mordechai Garbus and they had eight children. A chapter is also devoted to their lives. Hershel Matesky did not marry. Feigel Matesky married a man named Sanderovitz but it is not believed that they had any children. Dina Matesky married a man named Klitnik and they had one child. Finally, Eliyahu Matesky married Ita Shapiro and they had six children.

The third generation Mateskys were thus born and raised in the period from the 1870s through the 1890s. There was a rapid deterioration of conditions in the Pale following the assassination of Alexander II in 1881. The return of the persecution and restrictions along with the introduction of pogroms drove many Jews to despair. Many Jews chose to flee the oppressive conditions in the Pale. The third generation of Mateskys counted several members who were swept along in this historical tide that was to disperse them from their native land and deposit them on far away shores.

### *Jews in the Russian Empire*

The Pale of Settlement comprised the area of czarist Russia in which Jews were legally authorized to settle. It was originally created in 1794 by Catherine II, who, as a result of the three Polish partitions, inherited the largest Jewish population in the world. Within the Pale, Jewish residence was restricted to either the territories annexed from Poland along the western border or to the territories taken from the Turks along the shores of the Black Sea. Later, other annexed territories were added to the Pale and Jews permitted to settle there as "colonizers." The borders of the Pale were often in flux, expanding and contracting according to czarist acts of aggression. In April 1835, it was reaffirmed by a decree of Czar Nicholas I and despite minor modifications remained Russian policy until 1917 when the Bolshevik revolution removed it from the statutes.

The Pale covered an area of approximately 386,000 square miles, from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea. (For comparison, this is an area which is 20% larger than the combined states of California, Oregon, and Washington.) According to the census of 1897, there were 4,899,300 Jews living in the Pale forming approximately 11.6% of the population of the area and 94% of the total Jewish population of Russia. In some urban areas, the Jewish presence was particularly significant and on occasion constituted the majority of the population.

In the Russian Empire, Jews had not been tolerated since the Middle Ages. Orthodox Christianity considered Jews to be the enemy of Christ and believed that they sought to convert Christians to Judaism. The Czars, in their role as Protectors of the Faith, regularly refused permission for Jewish merchants to enter Russia. Early in the eighteenth century, Peter I imported thousands of non-Russian nationals to modernize his empire but refused to admit Jews. He stated: "I prefer to see in our midst nations professing Islam and paganism rather than Jews...It is my endeavor to eradicate evil not to multiply it."

There were periods of prolonged repression under the Czars, which were interrupted by intervals of relaxation. Repression took the form of economic and legal harassment, accusations of ritual murder, and ultimately murder and destruction through government-supported pogroms. At times, these policies would be eased somewhat, and the Jews would be allowed to settle outside the Pale and engage in a wider range of economic pursuits.

The figure on a succeeding page shows the gubernias (provinces) within the Pale of Settlement prior to the incorporation of Poland within the empire. Each gubernia had approximately 300,000 inhabitants. The Matesky family lived in the vicinity of Pinsk within the southwestern portion of Minsk gubernia in what is today Belarus.

### ***Minsk Gubernia and Belarus***

The Minsk Gubernia of the Russian Empire comprised a major portion of the modern state of Belarus. The history of the region is adapted from *The Jewish History of Belarus*.<sup>8</sup>

In the history of the Jews of the region, those who lived in the Belarus area were considered *Litvaks*. Jewish merchants first visited Belarus in transit between Poland and Russia as early as the 15th century. Jews acted as toll collectors in Nowogrodek (1445), Minsk (1489), and Smolensk (1489). In 1495 the Jews in Belarus were included in the expulsion of Lithuanian Jewry and returned when the Lithuanian Jews were allowed back in 1503. Jews from Brest-Litovsk, as large-scale farmers, contributed to the development of Belarus. A community was established in Pinsk in 1506. By 1539 there were Jews settled in Kletsk and Nowogrodek, and subsequently in Minsk, Polotsk, Vitebsk, Mogilev, and Orsha.

The Christian citizenry consistently opposed the permanent settlement of Jews within the areas of the towns under municipal jurisdiction. Within the framework of the Council of Lithuania, Pinsk was one of the three original principal communities; most of the communities in Belarus came under the jurisdiction of the Brest-Litovsk community, while several were subject to that of the Pinsk community. Smaller communities also grew up under the protection of the landowners who rented their towns, taverns, or inns to Jewish contractors.

According to the government census of 1766, there were 62,800 taxpaying Jews living in Belarus, forming 40 percent of Lithuanian Jewry. The largest communities were in Minsk (1,396 Jewish inhabitants) and Pinsk (1,350).

Although a small group of Jews acquired wealth as building contractors, army suppliers, and large-scale merchants, the vast majority of Jews in Belarus were relatively destitute. Nevertheless, their numbers grew. There were 225,725 Jews living in the three gubernias of Belarus in 1847 and 724,548 in 1897 (14% of the total population), forming the majority in the principal cities of the region. There were 47,561 Jews in Minsk (52% of the total population); 34,420 in Vitebsk (52%); 21,065 in Pinsk (74%); 20,759 in Bobruisk (61%); and 20,385 in Gomel (55%).

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<sup>8</sup> *The Jewish History of Belarus*, [www.heritagefilms.com/BELARUS.html](http://www.heritagefilms.com/BELARUS.html) (accessed 2002)



Gubernias of the Pale of Settlement in Czarist Russia  
Pinsk is circled

The Jews in the cities and townships of Belarus had associations with the village and rural economy in a variety of ways. Both the wealthy and poorer Jews engaged in the development and trade of forest industries and established small or medium-sized timber enterprises. They also developed leather and allied industries on a similar scale. Another Belarusian Jewish occupation was the peddling of village produce, such as flax, hemp, and bristles, which the Jewish peddler sold to Jewish merchants who exported them to the West.

Modern Belarus consists of portions of five gubernias from the Russian empire as shown on the following map. The Minsk Gubernia was the largest of these.



Modern Belarus with Russian Empire Gubernias (JewishGen)

The following map of the Minsk Gubernia was published in the nineteenth century and shows the Minsk towns and rivers. Portions of the adjoining gubernias can be seen. Pinsk is located in the southwest region of the map.



Minsk Gubernia, 1845 (Charles Knight and Company London)  
Pinsk is circled

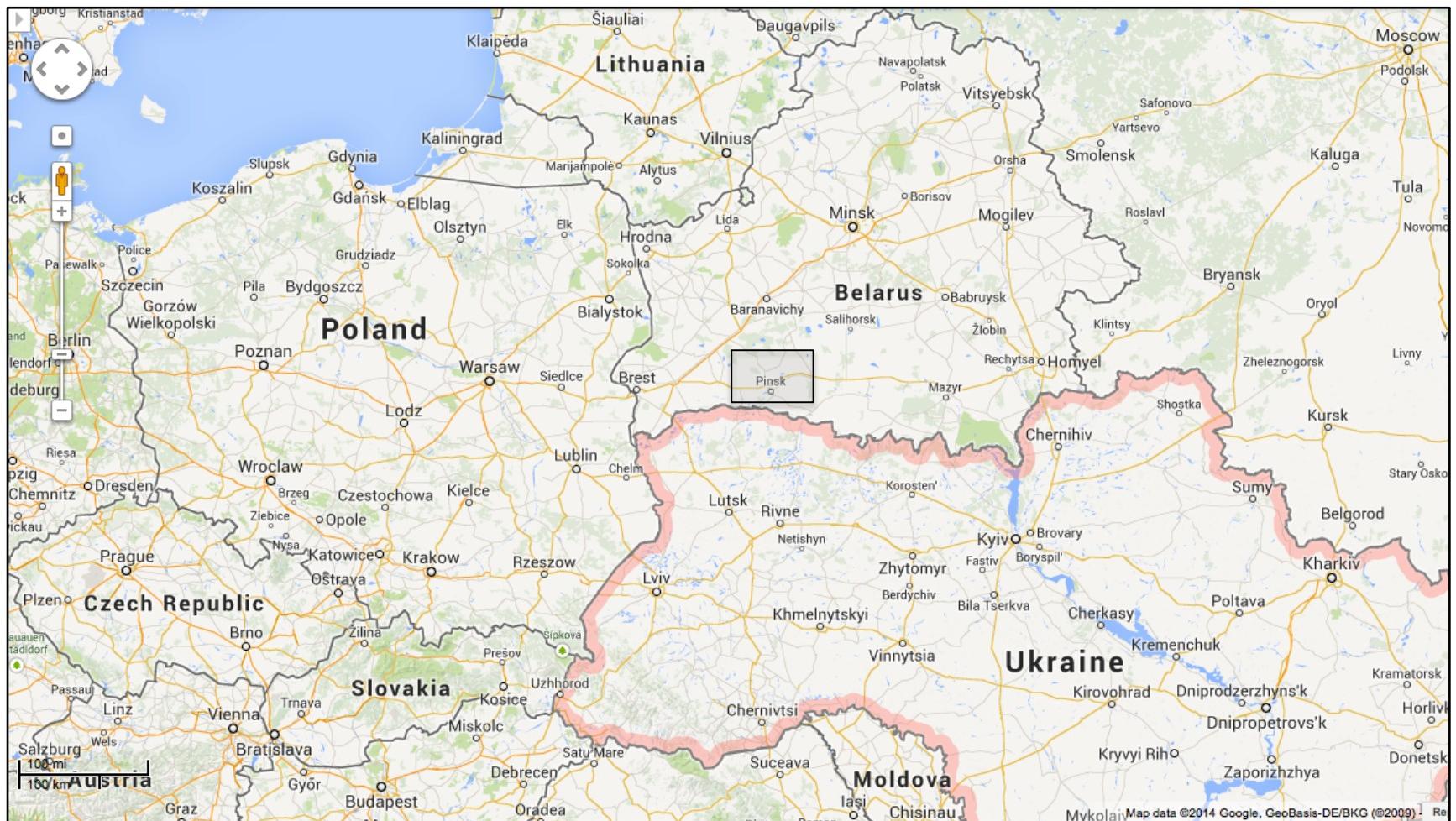
The following map shows the borders of Poland over time. The yellow areas indicate the Gubernias (provinces) of the Russian Empire's "Pale of Settlement" which were in Poland between the two world wars. During that period, the western third of Minsk Gubernia was in Poland. The Minsk Gubernia was seized by the Soviet Union during the Second World War and is today located in central Belarus.



Border changes of Poland over time (JewishGen)

### Matesky Family Origins in Minsk Gubernia

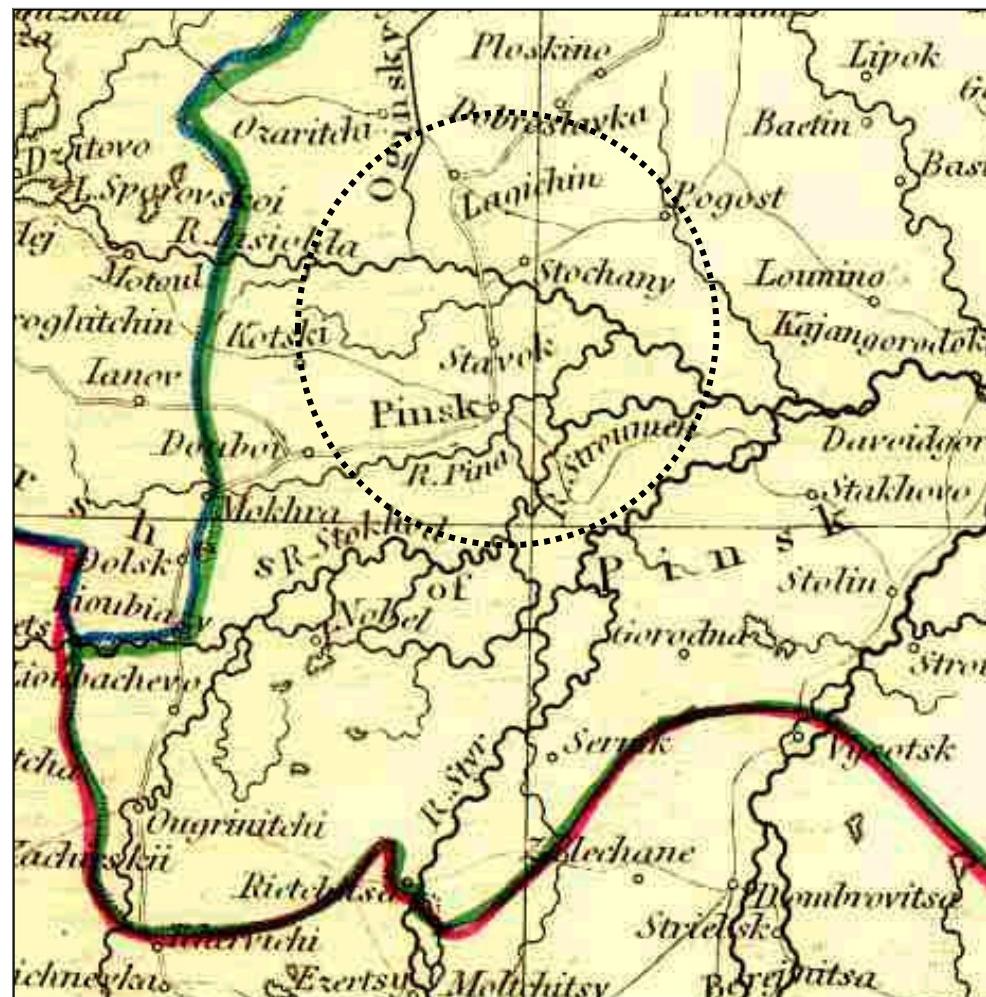
Interviews with several family members have resulted in the identification of locations in today's southwest Belarus where family members in the early Matesky generations were born and lived. These were the village of Stoshany and the nearby town of Lahishyn. The family also lived in the nearby city of Pinsk.



Modern map of Eastern Europe with region of Matesky locations



Modern map of Southwest Belarus with Matesky locations



Detail of Southwest Region of Minsk Gubernia, 1845  
Showing Pinsk, Stochany, and Lagishin (Lahishyn)  
Published by Charles Knight and Company, London

Several sources are provided that have documented the family origins in the stated locations.

**Micha Netser on the locations of family origin.** Micha is the son of Chaim Matesky and Rivka Lutsky. He wrote this correspondence on Dec. 30, 2007.

*About the original village of the Matesky family, it seems to me that it is Lahishyn since:*

- *Fruma Matesky married Mordechai Garbus who was from Lahishyn*
- *Feigel Matesky married a Sanderovitz who was from Lahishyn*
- *Dinah Matesky married a Klitenick who was from Telechan, which is north of Lahishyn*
- *Chava Matesky married Michel Lutsky who was from Stoshany, which is east of Lahishyn*
- *Eliyahu Matesky married Ita Shapira who was from Pinsk, which is south of Lahishyn*

**Leah Dolvopiat on the locations of family origin.** Leah is a granddaughter of Frumah Matesky and Mordechai Garbus. She was born and lived in Stoshany and moved to New York after World War II. She shared this during an interview on Nov. 19, 2000.

*The family lived in the village of Stoshany. The nearest town was Lahishyn. The city of Pinsk was nearby.*

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Introduction to Minnie (Garbus) Lutsky**

I interviewed my maternal grandmother, Minnie (Memke), on December 17, 1962 when she was 64 years old. I was 16 years old and this was my first family history interview, the transcript of which I retained through the years.

### **Minnie (Garbus) Lutsky on life in Czarist Russia**

*The Russian town of Stoshany (pronounced sta-shan by Minnie) consisted of one street about a mile long. Wooden houses with straw roofs stretched along its length. Between each house there was a fruit orchard or garden of vegetables. Numerous trees made a protective arch along the length of the street. In summer it was abloom with flowers, fruits, and vegetables everywhere. In winter, it was frigid cold. Then, women would gather in homes in front of fireplaces and spin flax to weave their own linens. The Jewish men gathered in one of the four Jewish homes in town.*

*In Russia, Jews were not allowed to own their own homes so they would buy them under the name of one of the gentiles in the village. The so-called gentile owner would periodically come to our home to remind us that he was the owner. He would bring his male friends into our home whenever he wanted. He and his friends would tell stories making fun of us. They smoked and spat on the floor. My elderly grandfather was shoved back and forth in search of a seat and was told, "Why would you want a seat? The house is mine and so are the benches."*

*The four Jewish families rented land from the minister. All towns were given land for churches from the government. The families paid the minister 300 rubles a year for use of the land. [In those days, a ruble was worth fifty cents.]*

*Stoshany had no lights in the street. In the winter, people would gather around small fireplaces with burning logs. The village was surrounded by forests. With the terrible cold, the wild animals were in a desperate search for food. The wolves from the forest were attracted to the village because of the burning fires and the abundance of livestock, which included chickens, pigs, and sheep. Attracted by the fire, they often came directly to the windows. (Wolves have weak peripheral vision and can see only what is directly in front of them.) They had to be chased off by gunfire and dogs.*

*All the vegetables and produce were sold at Lohishyn, a city that was two hours away. There the townspeople bought the necessities of life that were not made at home: candles, soap, kerosene, and grease. Each family was self-sustaining – we provided our own dairy and meat. Our family sold kerosene and soap, among other things; payment usually was an exchange for other products that were needed.*

### *Overview of the Shtetl*

It is known that family members lived in the Pinsk area and in nearby towns. Small towns with Jewish populations were known as *shtetls*. This overview of the *shtetl* is from the YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe:<sup>9</sup>

The Yiddish term for town, *shtetl*, commonly refers to small market towns in pre-World War II Eastern Europe with a large Yiddish-speaking Jewish population. While there were in fact great variations among these towns, a *shtetl* connoted a type of Jewish settlement marked by a compact Jewish population distinguished from its mostly gentile peasant neighbors by religion, occupation, language, and culture. The *shtetl* was defined by interlocking networks of economic and social relationships: the interaction of Jews and peasants in the market, the coming together of Jews for essential communal and religious functions, and the vital relationship between the *shtetl* and its emigrants abroad (organized in *landsmanshaftn*).

No *shtetl* stood alone. Each was part of a local and regional economic system that embraced other *shtetls* (*shtetlekh*) and provincial towns. Although the *shtetl* grew out of the private market towns of the Polish nobility in the old commonwealth, over time a *shtetl* became a common term for any town in Eastern Europe with a large Jewish population: towns not owned by noblemen in Poland, as well as towns in Ukraine, Hungary, and elsewhere in the region that attracted large-scale Jewish immigration during the course of the nineteenth century.

For all their diversity, these *shtetls* in Eastern Europe were indeed markedly different from previous kinds of Jewish Diaspora settlement in Babylonia, France, Spain, or Italy. In those other countries, Jews had lived scattered among the general population or, conversely, inhabited a specific section of town or a Jewish street. Rarely did they form a majority. This was not true of the *shtetl*, where Jews sometimes comprised 80 percent or more of the population. In many *shtetls*, Jews occupied most of the town, especially the streets grouped around the central marketplace. Poorer Jews would live further from the center and the frequently agrarian gentiles would often be concentrated on the peripheral streets, in order to be closer to the land that they cultivated.

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<sup>9</sup> Samuel Kassow, “Shtetl”, *The YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe*, <http://www.yivoencyclopedia.org/article.aspx/Shtetl> (accessed September 2015)



A typical shtetl market (Yiddishland)

This Jewish life in compact settlements had an enormous psychological impact on the development of East European Jewry, as did the language of the shtetl, Yiddish. Despite the incorporation of numerous Slavic words, the Yiddish speech of the shtetl was markedly different from the languages used by Jews' mostly Slavic neighbors. While it would be a mistake to see the shtetl as an entirely Jewish world, without gentiles, it is nonetheless true that Yiddish reinforced a profound sense of psychological and religious difference from non-Jews. Suffused with allusions to Jewish tradition and to religious texts, Yiddish developed a rich reservoir of idioms and sayings that reflected a vibrant folk culture inseparable from the Jewish religion.

The shtetl was also marked by occupational diversity. While elsewhere in the Diaspora Jews often were found in a small number of occupations, frequently determined by political restrictions, in the shtetl Jewish occupations ran the gamut from wealthy contractors and entrepreneurs, to shopkeepers, carpenters, shoemakers, tailors, teamsters, and water carriers. In some regions, Jewish farmers and villagers would be nearby. This striking occupational diversity contributed to the vitality of shtetl society and to its cultural development. It also led to class conflict and to often painful social divisions.



Jewish carpenter from Lodz (Yiddishland, Gingko Press, Inc.)

The experience of being a majority culture on the local level, sheer numbers, language, and occupational diversity all underscored the particular place of the shtetl as a form of Jewish Diaspora settlement.

### ***Identified Matesky Locations***

The area encompassing the three Matesky locations in Minsk Gubernia was within the jurisdiction of several states over the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Prior to World War I, it was located within the Minsk province of the Russian empire. Between the two world wars, it was considered part of the Polesie province of Poland. After World War II, it was within the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic. When the Soviet Union dissolved, it was within the state of Belarus.

Information is provided on the three identified Matesky locations in Minsk Gubernia. These are in the order from small to large – Stoshany, Lahishyn, and Pinsk.

#### ***Stoshany***

No information was found on the history of this village. This is likely due to its small size. In 2005, Micha Netser traveled to Belarus and took photos of Matesky-related locations there. These are included in this book.



House in Stoshany, 2005 (Micha Netser)

### Lahishyn

At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there was a Jewish population of nearly 1,600 out of approximately 3,300 people. The Hebrew name for the town is לֹהִישֵׁן. No information was found on the history of this town.



Map of Lahishyn, ca. 1910s to 1920s (Avotaynu)



Street in Lahishyn, 2005 (Micha Netser)

### Pinsk

At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there was a Jewish population of approximately 21,000 people. The Hebrew name for the town is פינסק.

The following history of Pinsk was adapted from *The Jewish Community of Pinsk*.<sup>10</sup>

The first Jewish settlement in Pinsk was established on the 9th of August 1506 when permission was granted by the Pinsk Prince Jaroslavitch. It included a permit for the construction of a synagogue and a graveyard. This original settlement had a population of 75 persons. After 150 years, in 1648, the community numbered 1,000 persons and represented 20 percent of the overall Pinsk population. The community had legal civil rights and the freedom to pursue various economic sectors including trading, crafts, loaning for interest, taxes and tariff collection, exporting produce and forest products.

In 1648, Ukrainian peasants, under Bogdan Chmielnitski, rose against Polish rule, the Catholic Church, and the Jews. Throughout the region, tens of thousands of Jews were killed, and several hundred communities were destroyed. In October 1648, Chmelnitski forces occupied Pinsk. Jews were murdered or fled, and some underwent forced baptism to Christianity. (It is believed that many later returned to Judaism). By the end of the 17th century, the Jewish settlement had recovered.

In 1793, the second division of Poland brought Pinsk under Russian rule. At this time there were 2,000 Jews living in the city. During the 19th century, the economic conditions improved. The Jews played an important role in the government's efforts to turn Pinsk into a crossroads for commerce, primarily in the logging industry, and in efforts to join southern Russia with ports along the Baltic Sea via river transport. The city was full of Jewish merchants and craftsmen. By the end of the nineteenth century, a railway line passed through Pinsk and this served as another catalyst for economic prosperity. Jews built industrial factories in the city to manufacture plywood, matches, and passenger boats, and to mill flour and lumber. Several thousand Jewish workers were employed in these factories, in addition to the hundreds of craftsmen.

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<sup>10</sup> Nahum Boneh, *The Jewish Community of Pinsk*, <http://www.pinskjew.com> (accessed 2002)



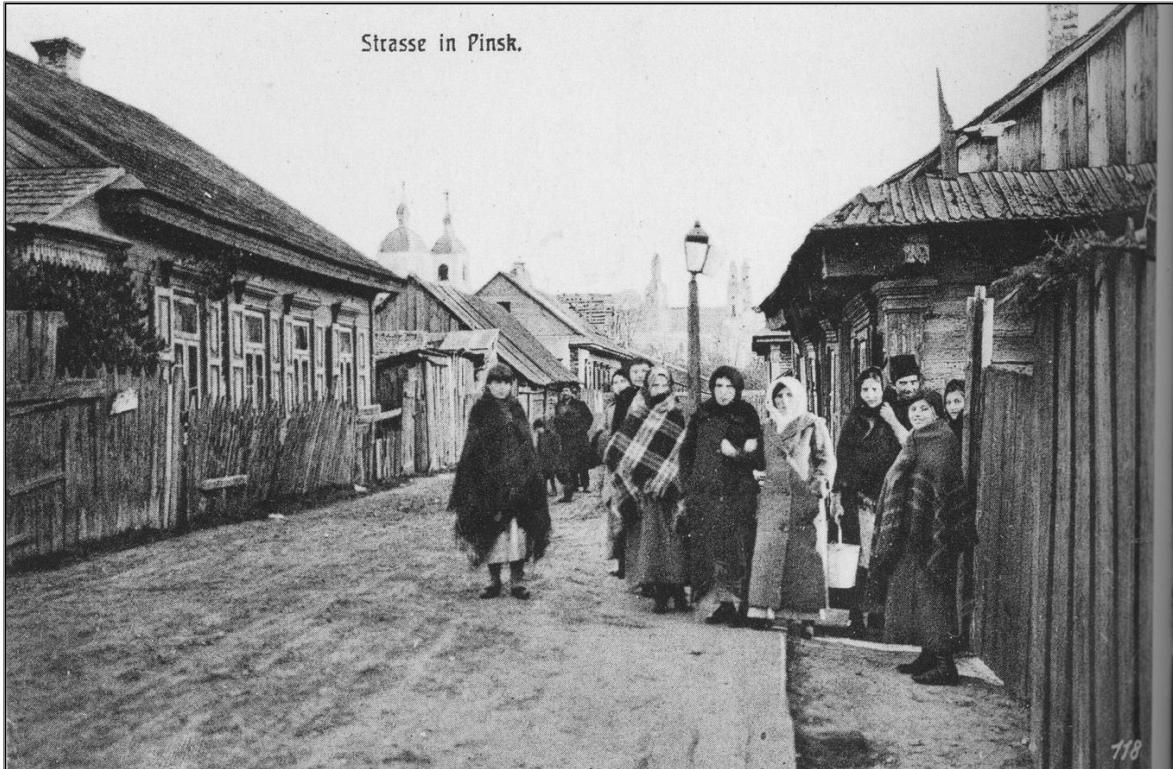
Pinsk merchant street Rue grand Kievskaja, ca. 1920

Further information is provided on the history of the Jews of Pinsk in the 18<sup>th</sup> century from the *Pinsk Yizkor Book*.<sup>11</sup>

Having "taken over" their own city, the Jews of Pinsk went on to play an important historical part in the setting up of Jewish communities in the small towns in the district of Polesia, and even outside its boundaries (in Volhynia, the gubernia to the south). One of the main economic activities of Pinsk Jewry was the leasing of estates, villages, forests, and lakes, together with their movable effects (including serfs) and immovable property (such as inns, mills, foundries), the latter often including transport facilities and road tolls. Such leases necessitated the administration of the property by trustworthy officials. As these latter were nearly all either members of the chief lessee's family or fellow townsmen of his who took up residence in the places leased, a process began whereby the Jews of Pinsk gradually "colonized" the small towns.

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<sup>11</sup> *Pinsk Historical Volume: History of the Jews of Pinsk, 1506-1941 (Volume 1)*



Street in Pinsk with Jewish women recognizable by their large shawls (YiddishLand)

Even after great changes had taken place in the social structure of the Jewish population in Pinsk and its surroundings, Pinsk still remained the cultural, economic and political metropolis of the whole of Polesia<sup>12</sup> and the seat of the district government offices. Here the Jews established industrial enterprises for processing the raw-material of the district (saw-mills for the wood from the Polesian Forests, and factories) and turned the city into a marketing center for the agricultural produce of the whole region. But, above all, Pinsk became a center of Torah (religious study) and *haskalah* (secular Jewish learning). So great was the influence exercised by Pinsk over the whole surrounding district that the new doctrine of *hasidism*, which had come from Karlin, the suburb of Pinsk, evoked a readier response in the 18th and 19th centuries amongst the Jewish population of the small towns and villages than in Pinsk itself.

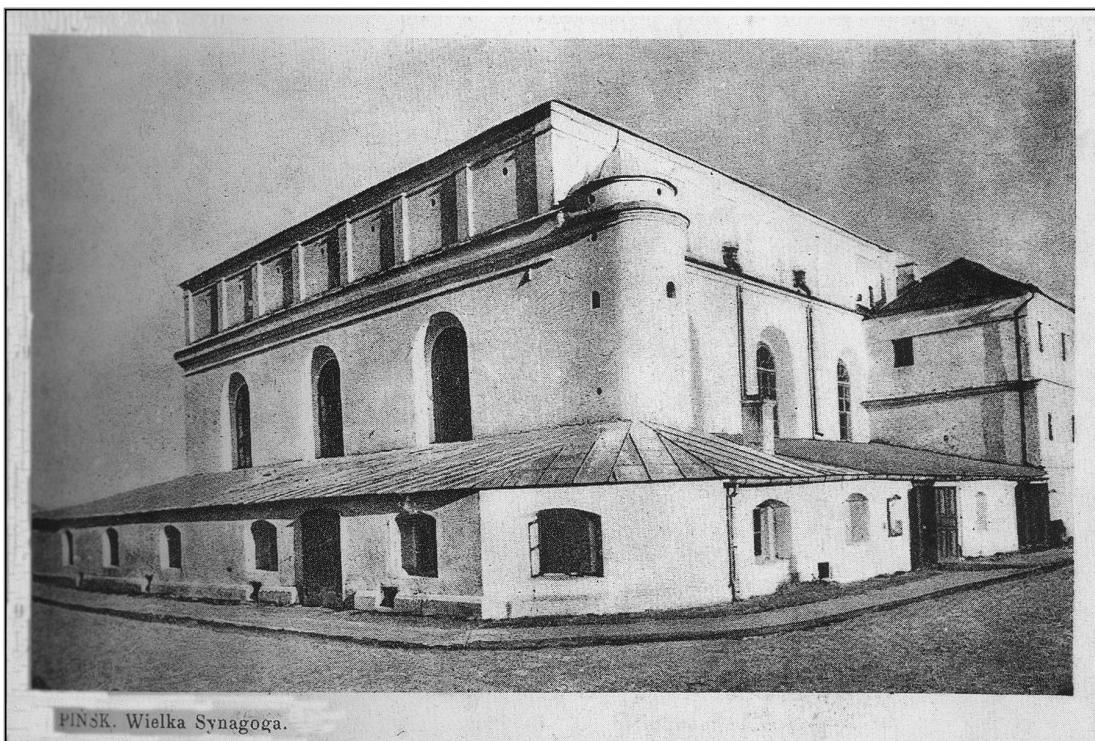
Additional historical photographs of Pinsk are presented dating from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

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<sup>12</sup> Polesia is a natural and historical region starting from the farthest edges of Central Europe and into Eastern Europe, stretching from parts of Eastern Poland, and straddling the Belarus - Ukraine border and into western Russia. It is one of the largest forested areas in Europe. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polesia> (accessed April 2018)



Pinsk Jewish Quarter, ca. 1920 (Avotaynu)



Wielka Synagogue, the main one in Pinsk, built in 1640, ca. 1916 (YiddishLand)



Wielka Synagogue interior, ca. 1916 (Avotaynu)

In 2005, Micha Netser traveled to Belarus to visit locations where the Matesky and Lutsky family had lived. Several of his photos are included here. In Pinsk, he found Klashtorna Street which is where Eliezer Matesky lived with his family.



Klashtorna Street in Pinsk, 2005 (Micha Netser)

## *Oppression of Jews under Russian Czars*

### **Czar Alexander III**

Czar Alexander III came to power in 1881 following the assassination of his father, Alexander II, by revolutionaries. After the funeral of Alexander II, the press began to hint at a "secret Jewish conspiracy" against the Motherland. Soon, a series of pogroms "spontaneously" erupted throughout southern Russia and the Ukraine. This period of pogroms from 1881 to 1884 was the first of three waves of attacks against Russian Jews. (The other two periods of pogroms were 1903 to 1906 and 1918 to 1920.) Hundreds of Jewish homes and shops were looted, and many Jews were killed, wounded, or driven from their homes. An official investigation blamed "Jewish exploitation" as the cause for the pogroms.



Czar Alexander III, ca. 1880s (Wikipedia)

The diary of Mosh Leib Lilienblum (1843-1910) provides a view of the terror faced by the Jews under Czarist pogroms.

*May 1881: The situation is terrible and frightening. The courtyards are barred up, and we keep peering through the grillwork to see if the mob is coming to swoop down on us. We all sleep in our clothes and without bedding so that if we are attacked, we will immediately be able to take the small children and flee. But will they let us flee? Will they have mercy on the youngsters? How long, O God of Israel?<sup>13</sup>*

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<sup>13</sup> From *The Zionist Idea: A Historical Analysis and Reader*, Arthur Hertzberg, 1960

To address his "Jewish problem," Alexander III passed the "temporary May Laws" of 1882. These laws ushered in a new period of severe anti-Jewish discrimination that lasted for 35 years until 1917. According to the May Laws, no Jew was permitted to settle "anew" in any rural area in Russia, including the Pale. This barred their exit from the crowded cities, where 60 percent of the Jews lived, to the villages. At the same time, Russian peasants in the villages were given the right to expel "vicious" inhabitants and used this to eliminate their unwanted neighbors. Hundreds of thousands of Jews were driven from the countryside into the congested cities and rural Jewish life declined.

In the thirty-three years between the assassination of Alexander II and the outbreak of World War I, approximately one-third of Eastern European Jews fled their homeland in response to waves of oppression. The pogroms of Alexander III in the early 1880s initiated the exodus of Jews from Russia. In Jewish history, 1881 ranks with 1648, the year of the Chmelnitski massacres, and 1492, the year of Jewish expulsion from Spain. Beginning in 1881, Jews left Russia at a rate of 50,000 to 60,000 a year.

In 1886, Michel and Chava Lutsky left Russia and journeyed to Palestine. Twenty-seven years later, in 1913, Minnie Garbus left Russia and traveled to America. They thus participated in the historic migration of Jews from Eastern Europe to Palestine and to America.

### Czar Nicholas II

Nicholas II succeeded his father, Alexander III, as Czar and ruled Russia from 1894 to 1914. Nicholas, like his father, loathed the Jews. He used the word *zhyd* as a synonym for "enemy." He continued the May Laws and methodically debased the Jews in the eyes of Russians as the source of their poverty and weakness.



Czar Nicholas II, ca. 1910s (Associated Press)

Nicholas's Minister of the Interior, Wenzel von Plehve, decided to bypass the limitations of the May Laws and instituted systematic murder and pillage. He launched the second wave of pogroms against the Jews which lasted from 1903 to 1906. Under him, pogroms became an instrument of government policy.



Homes vandalized in the Kishinev pogroms, 1903 (YIVO)

The second wave of pogroms was far more vicious than those of the 1880s. The assaults sprang from the Czarist attempt to thwart revolutionaries by diverting the attention and anger of the masses from the monarchy to the Jews. The first pogrom was in Kishinev, on Passover 1903, where mobs slaughtered forty-nine people, injured hundreds, and destroyed 1,500 Jewish homes and shops.

In August of 1903, a government-instigated pogrom was launched at Gomel, in Minsk Gubernia, where 20,000 Jews formed half the city's population. In spite of a well-organized Jewish defense, some 240 Jewish homes were destroyed, and twelve Jews killed. For the remainder of the year, pogroms erupted throughout the Minsk and Volhynia Gubernias. At that time, Minnie Garbus was five years old.

In 1906, Peter Stolypin was appointed Minister of the Interior<sup>14</sup>. He was a committed foe of the emerging socialist revolution and openly subsidized gangs and secret police that terrorized democratic opponents of the government. He was persuaded by Nicholas that the revolution could be "drowned in Jewish blood." To achieve that end, he employed the notorious "Union of the Russian People", which was the first modern instrument of Russian anti-Semitism. Nearly every month, the "Black Hundreds", the activist arm of the Union, launched assaults on Jewish communities. Mounted on horseback and carrying portraits of the czar, national flags, and church banners, they galloped through the Pale pillaging, raping, and killing. Pogroms were staged in more than 300 towns and cities, leaving almost a thousand people dead and many thousands wounded.

<sup>14</sup> Peter Stolypin was later appointed Prime Minister. He was assassinated in 1911 by a Jewish man named Bogrov.



Black Hundreds rally in Odessa, Ukraine, 1905 (Encyclopedia of Ukraine)



Jews of Pinsk in front of destroyed buildings (Yiddishland)

The second wave of pogroms from 1903 to 1906 precipitated a different reaction from the Jews. In the earlier wave of the 1880s, they accepted the attacks as their fate; after Kishinev, they rebelled. They no longer accepted murder and pillage without resistance. A growing number realized that the authorities would not protect them and choose to protect themselves. They formed self-defense groups and fought the attackers. Jews who had feared Czarist police were now openly daring to defy the authorities and to offer armed resistance.



Members of the Jewish Bund self-defense organization  
With three pogrom victims in Odessa (1905-1906)

\* \* \* \* \*

In the first half of the 20th century, Jews were the third largest ethnic group in Belarus. They comprised more than 40% of the population in cities and towns. The population of cities such as Minsk, Pinsk, and several others was more than 50% Jewish. In 1939 there were 375,000 Jews in Belarus, or 13.6% of the total population. During the Holocaust, some 246,000 out of 375,000 Jews - 66% of the Jewish population - were killed there. According to the 2009 census, there were 12,926 Jews in Belarus remaining (0.1% of the population).<sup>15</sup>

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### **Introduction to Esther (Lutsky) Jewler**

I interviewed my mother Esther on July 31, 1993 when she was 73 years old. Esther was born in 1920 in Brooklyn, New York to Solomon Lutsky and Minnie Garbus. She grew up in Brooklyn and then moved to Washington, DC. She married Samuel Jewler, had a son and a daughter, and died in 2007.

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<sup>15</sup> *History of the Jews in Belarus*, Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_the\\_Jews\\_in\\_Belarus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Jews_in_Belarus) (accessed April 2018)



Esther Jewler interviewed by Leonard Jewler, Olney, MD, 1993

The interview with Esther Jewler on July 31, 1993, opened as follows:

Len: We are going to have a discussion today with Esther Jewler, and we will start by talking about the Lutsky family going way back.

Esther: ...*As far back as I can remember.*

Len: ...As far back as she can remember – and she has a very long memory.

Esther: ...*Let's hope so.*

## Matesky Family Lines

As stated, Eliezer and Sara Lea Matesky had eight children. These constitute the eight Matesky family lines in this book. Information is available on three of these family lines and they are discussed. These are Michel Lutsky and Chava Matesky, Mordechai Garbus and Frumah Matesky, and Eliyahu Matesky and Ita Shapiro. Photos, correspondence, and original source materials are provided where available. Appendix A displays detailed family trees for these three family lines and more limited trees for three other lines – those of Marsha Matesky and [unknown] Pilchick, Memka Matesky and [unknown] Begin, and Dina Matesky and Yehuda Zevulin Klitnick.

## *The Family of Michel Lutsky and Chava Matesky*

### *Michel and Chava Lutsky's Family*

Michel and Chava Lutsky had eight children – five sons and three daughters. Their first child, Nathan, was born in Russia in 1885. Their subsequent seven children were all born in Palestine from 1887 through 1901. Four of the sons emigrated to New York city – Nathan, Shalom, Bernard, and Meyer. The remaining son, Yaakov, and daughters – Hannah, Yehudit, and Rivka – established lives in Palestine and Israel. The following table provides birth, residence, and death information on Michel and Chava Lutsky and their children.

Michel Lutsky and Chava Matesky and their Children  
Birth, Residence, and Death Information

Name	Birth Date	Birth Place	Residence	Death
Michel Lutsky	Jan. 10, 1863	Russia	Rehovot, Israel	May 8, 1915
Chava Matesky	Jan. 29, 1865	Pinsk, Russia	Rehovot, Israel	Mar. 28, 1960
Nathan Lutsky	Jan. 10, 1885	Pinsk, Russia	New York, N.Y.	Feb. 14, 1980
Solomon (Shalom) Lutsky	Jan. 27, 1887	Jaffa, Palestine	Wash. D.C.	Jun. 19, 1962
Haya Lutsky	Jan. 1, 1893	Palestine		
Bernard Lutsky	Apr. 3, 1897	Palestine	New York, N.Y.	Jul. 5, 1977
Meyer Lutsky	Feb. 12, 1899	Rehovot, Palestine	Brooklyn, N.Y.	1935
Rivka Lutsky	Dec. 3, 1899	Rehovot, Palestine	Petah Tikva, Israel	Jan. 5, 1948
Jacob (Yaakov) Lutsky	Dec. 26, 1902	Rehovot, Palestine	Rehovot, Israel	May 23, 2001
Judith (Yehudit) Lutsky	Dec. 26, 1902	Rehovot, Palestine	Rehovot, Israel	May 10, 1984

The number of descendants of each Lutsky family line is presented in the following table.

Descendant Count for Lutsky family lines<sup>16</sup>

Lutsky Sibling	Spouse	Descendants
Nathan	Dinah Levin	27
Solomon	Minnie Garbus	41
Haya	David Shlomovitz	108
Bernard	Flora Simon	55
Meyer	N/A	1
Rivka	Hayim Matesky	45
Ya'akov	Miriam Kerbel	16
Yehudit	Baruch Treister	23
Total		316

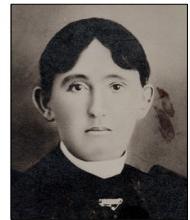
The following pages display photo portraits of the family of Michel and Chava Lutsky and a chart of the Lutsky children and their spouses. Then a brief biography is provided for each of the children in the order of their birth. The section concludes with photos of the family. (The photos are from the collection of Solomon and Minnie Lutsky.)

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<sup>16</sup> Based on available family tree data as of April 2019.



Michel  
Lutsky



Chava  
Matesky



Nathan  
Lutsky



Solomon  
Lutsky



Haya  
Lutsky



Bernard  
Lutsky



Meyer  
Lutsky



Rivka  
Lutsky

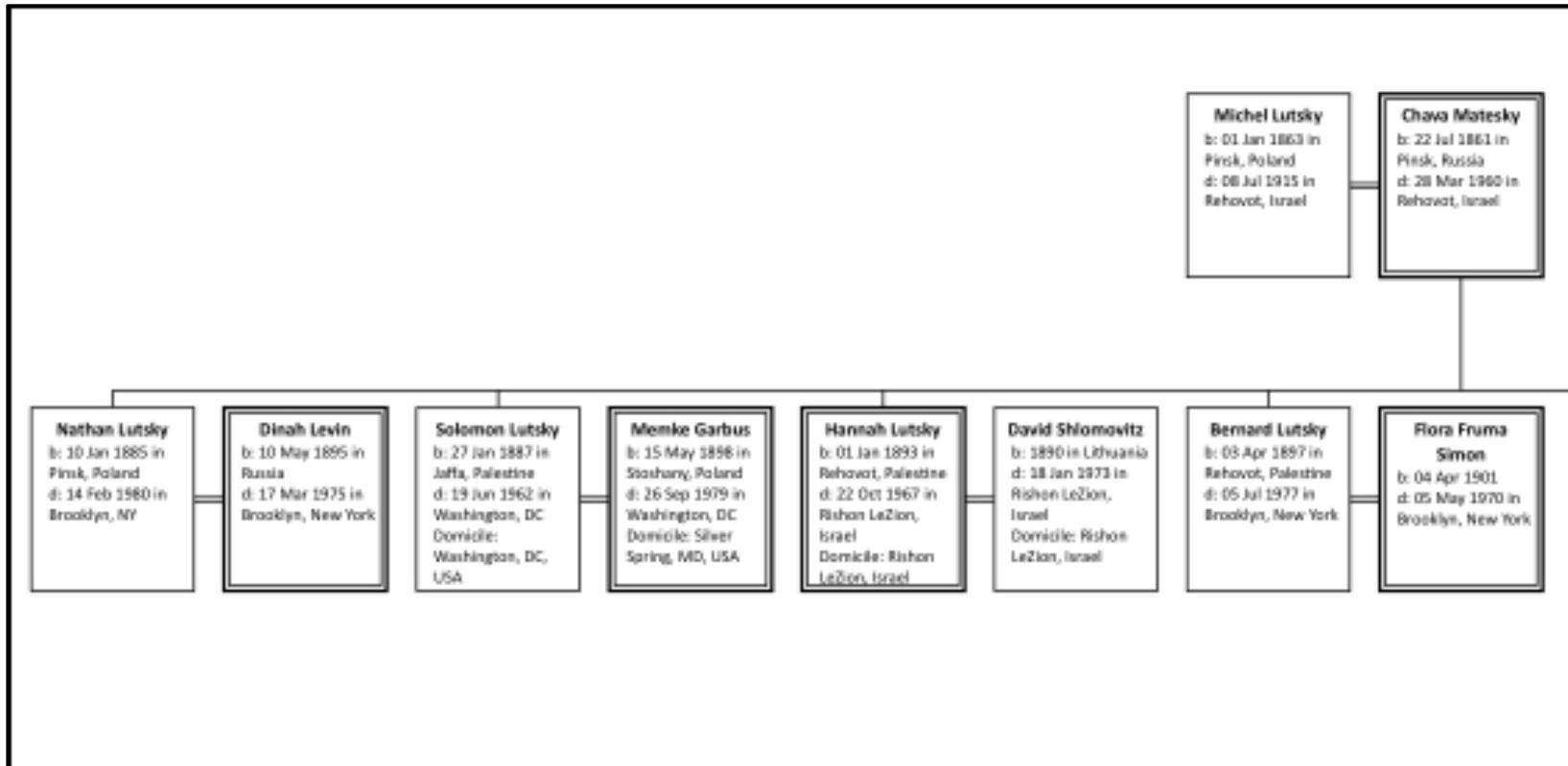


Jacob  
Lutsky

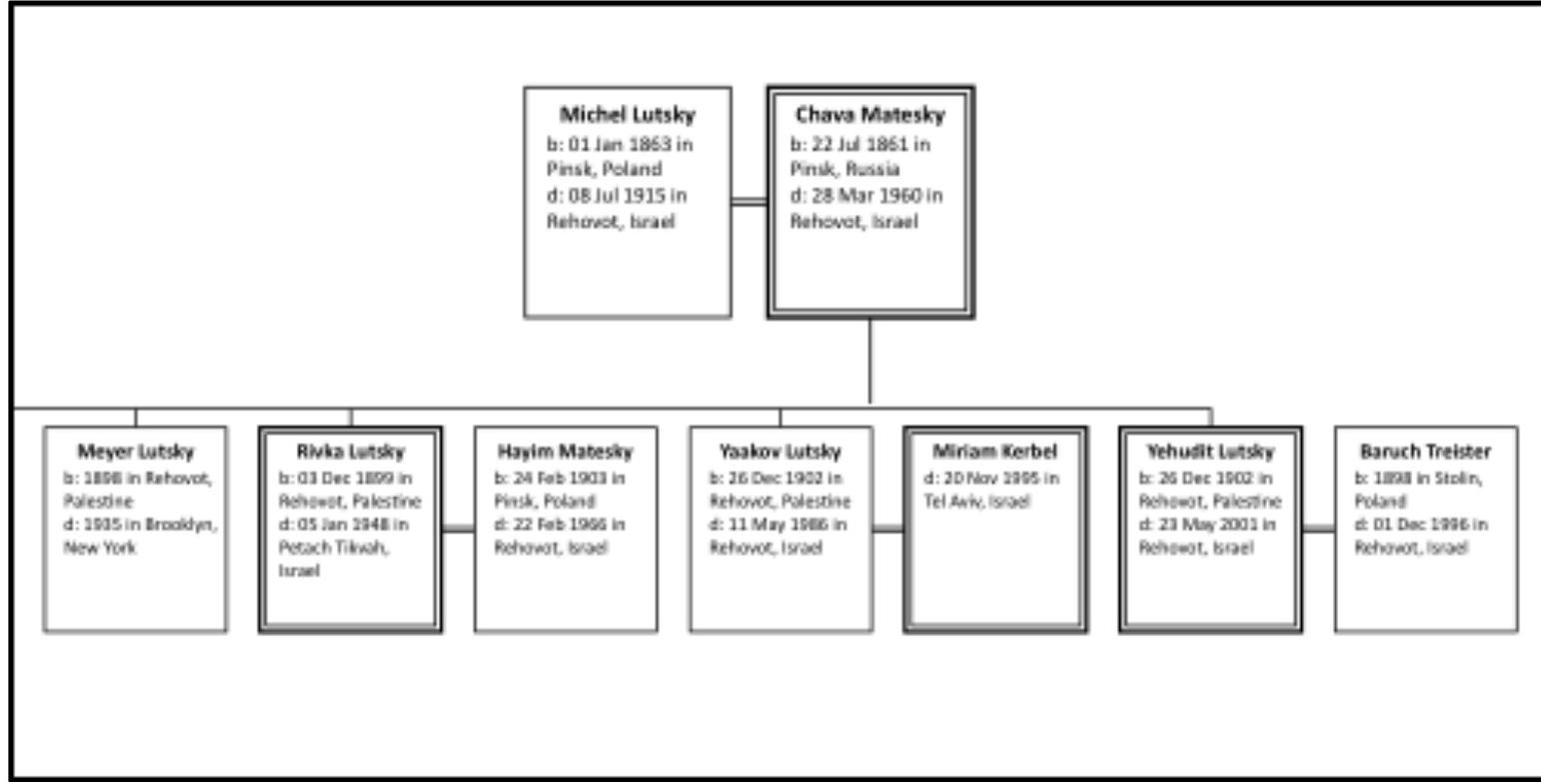


Judith  
Lutsky

The family of Michel Lutsky and Chava Matesky



Michel and Chava Lutsky's children and their spouses (page 1 of 2)



Michel and Chava Lutsky's children and their spouses (page 2 of 2)

### **Nathan Lutsky**

Nathan was born January 10, 1885 in Pinsk, Russia. His parents, Michel and Chava Lutsky, traveled with him to Palestine in 1886. He emigrated from Palestine to New York City prior to World War I. He may have lived in England for several years before coming to the United States.<sup>17</sup>



Nathan Lutsky, Brooklyn, 1925

Nathan married Dinah Levin and had four children. He sold furniture in Brooklyn. His son Irving went to Brooklyn College and changed his name from Lutsky to Lewis. His son Jack was an aid to several New York City mayors and became a family court judge. Nathan died February 14, 1980.

### **Solomon Lutsky**

Solomon was born January 27, 1887 in Palestine. He was the first child of Michel and Chava Lutsky to be born in Palestine. In 1911, he emigrated from Palestine to New York City. He was the third Lutsky brother to move to New York after Nathan and Bernard.



Solomon Lutsky, Brooklyn, 1925

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<sup>17</sup> According to Ellen Berler correspondence (Dec. 1, 2018)

Solomon married Minnie Lutsky and had three children. He operated several hardware stores in New York City and eventually moved to Washington D.C. where he worked for the General Services Administration of the Federal government.

Solomon was very kind and considerate and devoted to his family. He often contacted and visited with family members in return trips to New York. He was referred to as the *goota Shalom* for his thoughtfulness. He died June 19, 1962. Further information on Solomon's life is presented in other sections.

### Haya Lutsky

Haya was born January 1, 1893 in Palestine. She lived her life in Palestine, then Israel.



Haya Lutsky with brother Solomon Lutsky (standing) and husband David Shlomovitz (seated), ca. 1910s

Haya married David Shlomovitz and had four children. She was the only Lutsky daughter who was married before World War I. Her family lived in Rishon Le-Zion in Israel. Some descendants have moved to Los Angeles, California.

## Bernard Lutsky

Bernard was born April 3, 1897 in Palestine. He emigrated from Palestine to New York City. He and Nathan were the first of the Lutsky family to come to New York. He lived for a while with his brother and sister-in-law, Solomon and Minnie Lutsky, after they married in September 1916.



Bernard Lutsky ca. latter 1910s

Bernard married Flora Fruma Simon and had three children. His children all changed their name from Lutsky to Lewis. In 1918, he established the Franklin Machine Products Company located at 663 Broadway in New York.<sup>18</sup> It began as a small shop manufacturing specialty components for commercial coffee urns. In the 1920s, the business grew primarily as a manufacturer of specialty plumbing fittings for the foodservice industry. Over the years the company grew and eventually moved to New Jersey. The company remained in the family for three generations and is still in business though under other ownership. Bernard died July 5, 1977.

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<sup>18</sup> The history of Franklin Machine Products, <https://www.fmponline.com/ecomm/Shop> (accessed Dec. 2018)

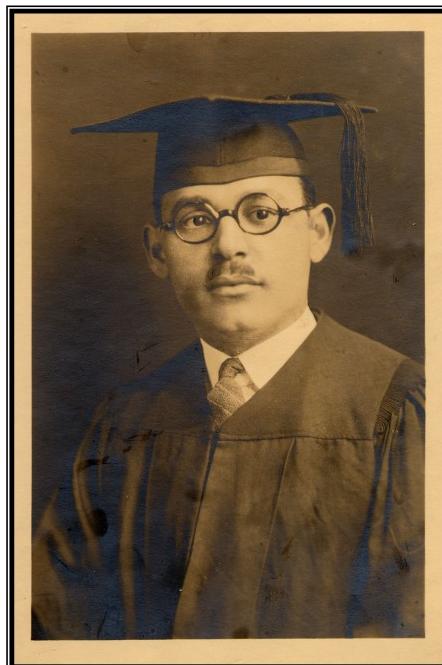
### Meyer Lutsky

Meyer was born on Feb. 12, 1899 in Rehovot, Palestine. He emigrated from Palestine to New York City and lived in Brooklyn.



Meyer Lutsky

Meyer trained as pharmacist at Fordham University in New York. Upon graduation, he opened a pharmacy and lived behind it. In 1935, he contracted tuberculosis and died.



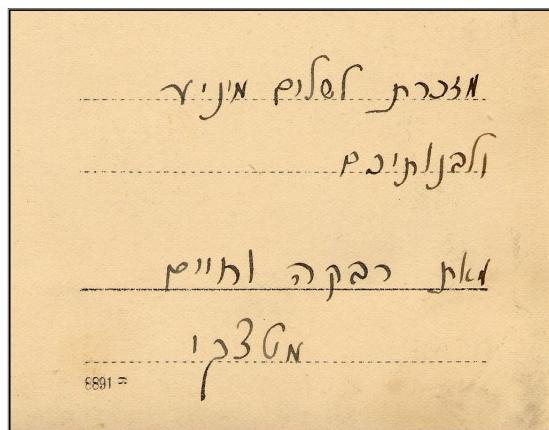
Meyer Lutsky, graduation from Fordham University, ca. 1920s

## Rivka Lutsky

Rivka was born Dec. 3, 1899 in Rehovot, Palestine. She lived her life in Palestine, then Israel. She lived in Rehovot, Israel.



Rivka (Lutsky) and Chayim Matesky, ca. mid-1920s



A postcard was sent by Rivka and Chayim Matesky in Palestine to Solomon and Minnie Lutsky in New York. The inscription was translated by Michael Netser, Holon, Israel, Nov. 20, 2000:

*A memory card for Shalom and Minnie and for their daughters.*

*From Rivka and Chayim Matesky*

Rivka married Chayim Matesky and had two children. She died January 5, 1948.

## Jacob Lutsky

Jacob (Ya'akov) was born December 28, 1901 in Rehovot, Palestine. He was a twin to his sister Judith. He lived his life in Palestine, then Israel.

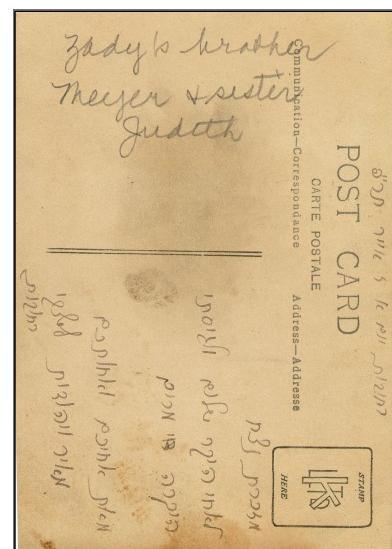


Jacob Lutsky (Yarone Goren on Geni)

Jacob married Miriam Krabel and had one child. He served in the British Army during World War II. After being wounded in action, he played the trumpet in the military orchestra.<sup>19</sup> He died on May 10, 1984.

## Judith Lutsky

Judith (Yehudit) was born December 28, 1901 in Rehovot, Palestine. She was a twin to her brother Jacob. She lived her life in Palestine, then Israel. Yehudit married Baruch Treister and had two children.



Meyer and Yehudit Lutsky, 1920

<sup>19</sup> According to Micha Netser correspondence of March 23, 2003

A postcard was sent in 1920 to Solomon and Minnie Lutsky in New York from Meyer and Yehudit Lutsky in Rehovot. It was translated by Michael Netser in Holon, Israel, on Nov. 20, 2000:

*Rehovot, 7 Iyar 5680 (25 April 1920)*  
*An eternal souvenir to our dear brother Shalom and dear sister-in-law Miriam*  
*from your brother and sister Meyer and Yehudit Lutsky, Rehovot.*

Her husband Baruch was an owner of the Egged bus company. Judith died in 2001.



Yehudit Lutsky and Baruch Treister, Haifa, Palestine, Feb. 11, 1938

### The Lutsky Family Album

Several photos are presented of the Lutsky family in New York. These include photos of Chava taken during her visit to America in 1925. Her sons in New York paid for her only trip there. When she arrived, they presented her with two diamond stud earrings as a gift.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> From interview with Esther Lutsky Jewler on June 17, 2001.



From left: Nathan, Bernard, and Solomon Lutsky, Brooklyn, New York, 1925



From left: Solomon, Bernard, Nathan, and Meyer Lutsky, 1925



From left standing: Nathan and Solomon Lutsky  
From left seated: Bernard, Chava, and Meyer Lutsky, New York, 1925  
Photographed at Chernev Studio, William Metz. Prop.,  
1539 Pitkin Ave., Brooklyn New York



Top row from left: Bernard, Flora, Nathan, Dina, Solomon and Minnie Lutsky

Middle row from left: Jack, Meyer, Chava, Lillian, and Irving Lutsky

Bottom row from left: Martin, Lenny, Esther, Ruth, and Lillie Lutsky

New York, 1925

Lutsky families:

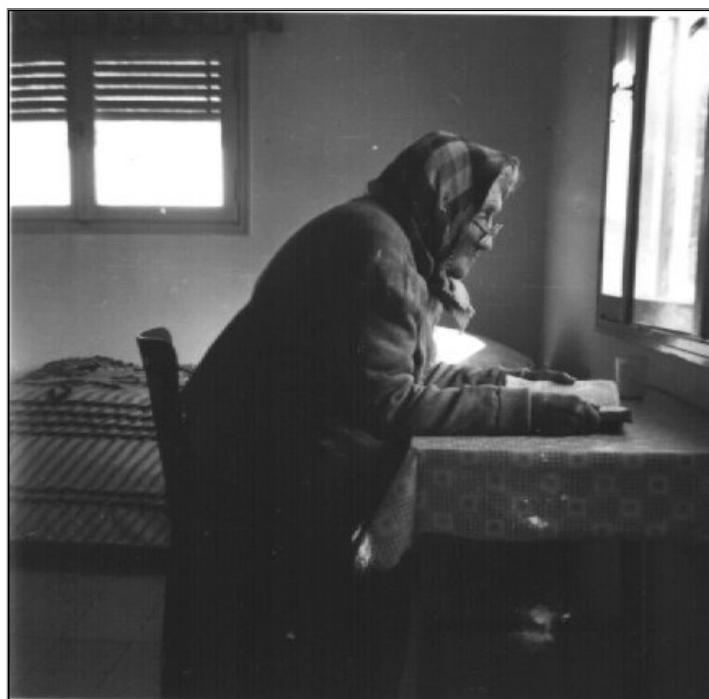
Nathan and Dina and children Jack, Irving, Lillian, and Ruth

Solomon and Minnie and children Lillie and Esther

Bernard and Flora and children Martin and Lenny



Chava (Matesky) Lutsky, Israel, latter 1950s



### *Lutsky Family in Czarist Russia*

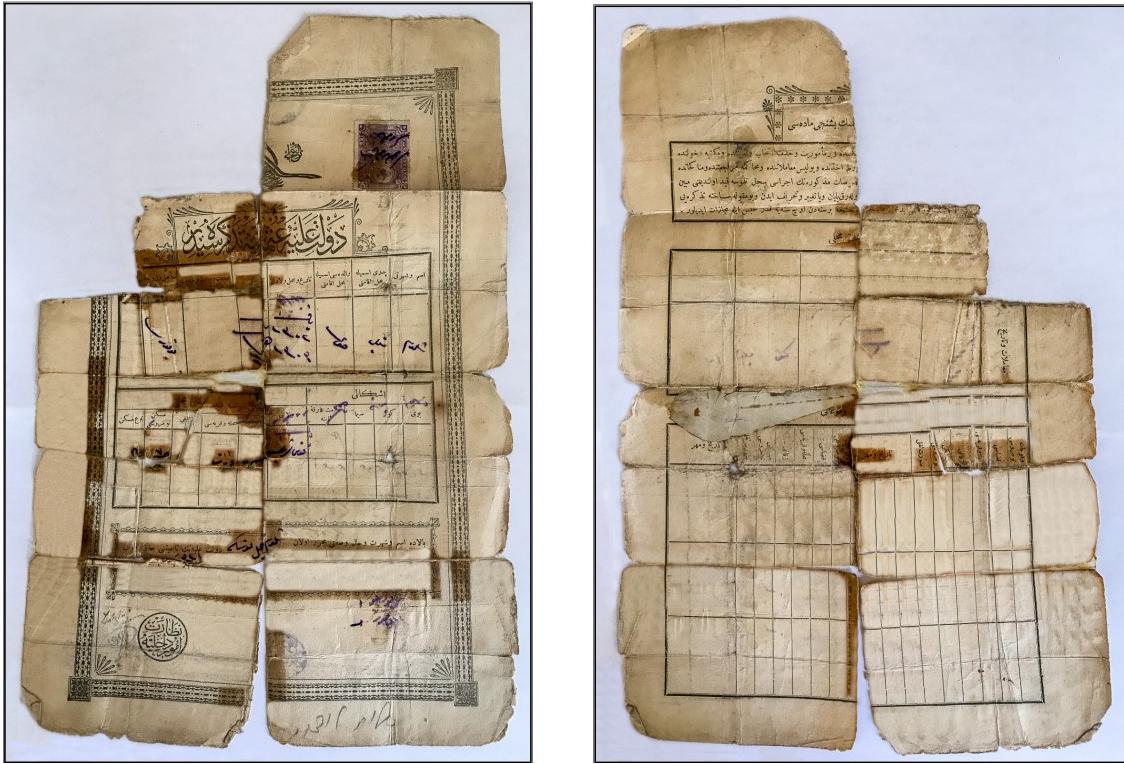
[Esther Lutsky Jewler interview] Zayde [Solomon Lutsky, Esther's father] was born in Jaffa, Palestine – the first of the children to be born in Israel. He had an older brother [Nathan] who was born in Russia. His parents made their trek from Russia to Palestine to escape the pogroms that were going on in Russia.

Esther's father, Solomon Lutsky, was born in Jaffa, Palestine on January 27, 1887. He was named *Shalom* in Hebrew, presumably in honor of his paternal grandfather of the same name. His parents, Michel Lutsky and Chava (Matesky) Lutsky, fled the Czarist pogroms with their one-year-old child, Nathan, and journeyed to Palestine in 1886. At the time, Michel and Chava were 21 and 25 years old respectively. At the time, Palestine was a region of the Ottoman Empire. Solomon was their second child and the first one born in Palestine. As stated, Michel and Chava had a total of eight children.



Chava Matesky and Michael Lutsky, ca. 1880s (Jewler family)

Michel and Chava Lutsky had originally lived in the Minsk Gubernia of the Pale of Settlement in the vicinity of the town of Pinsk. Michel Lutsky is estimated to have been born in 1865. (His birth year is estimated from the fact that he died at age 50 on July 8, 1915.) Chava Matesky was born on July 22, 1861.

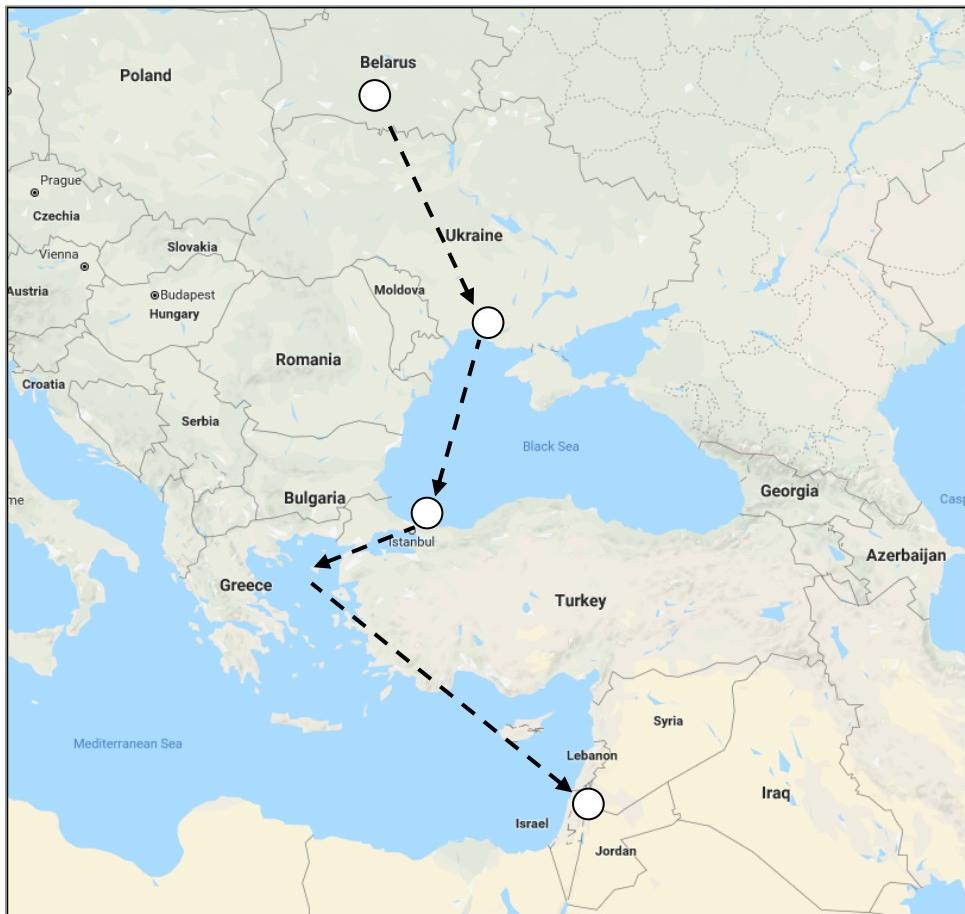


Solomon Lutsky's Turkish birth certificate,  
front (left) & back (right), 1887 (Jewler family)

According to Michael Netser, most immigrants to Palestine from Czarist Russia traveled over land to Odessa, then by boat across the Black Sea, through the Bosphorus at Istanbul, and across the Aegean Sea and Mediterranean Sea to Jaffa. (In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Jaffa was the main port of Palestine.) The distance from Pinsk to Odessa is approximately 500 miles. Traveling by horse drawn wagon, their speed would have been approximately 4 miles per hour. If they traveled 8 hours a day, it would have taken them 16 days to reach Odessa and board a ship bound for Jaffa. Alternately, if they traveled by train, the estimated speed at that time was around 30 miles per hour<sup>21</sup> so the 500-mile trip would have taken 17 hours if non-stop. The distance from Odessa to Jaffa by sea is approximately 1,400 miles. The speed of the typical transatlantic steamship was approximately 350 miles per day<sup>22</sup>. Assuming the ships in the Black Sea traveled at the same rate, the journey by ship would have taken 4 days. Thus, overall, Michael and Chava's journey from Pinsk, Russia to Jaffa, Palestine, spanning 1,900 miles, would likely have taken either 5 days if by train or 20 days if by wagon.

<sup>21</sup> June 1870 Railway Guide average train speed in United States

<sup>22</sup> At the time, the typical transatlantic voyage took 2 weeks to cross the 5,000 miles from Europe to New York. This is an average speed of 357 miles per day. From Ellis Island History, [www.ellisisland.com](http://www.ellisisland.com).



Likely Route of Michael and Chava Lutsky From Pinsk, Russia to Jaffa, Palestine in 1886

### *Lutsky Family in Palestine*

Since Michael and Chava Lutsky were early settlers in Rehovot, information on them is presented in the Rehovot heritage Site.<sup>23</sup>

Michael and Chava Lutsky immigrated to Israel from the Pinsk area in today's Belarus during the first *aliyah* with their son Natan. They settled in the Neve Tzedek quarter of Jaffa where their children were born - Shalom, Chaya and Dov. In 1895 (or 1896) they moved to Rehovot. There they had four other children, Meir, Rivka, Yehudit and Yaakov.

Michael Lutzky was born in Stashan, Russia in 1863. His father was Shalom-Nissan and his mother was Sarah-Leah. He did not belong to the group of founders of Rehovot, the owners of houses and plots, but was one of the craftsmen who joined the colony and therefore rented a house from one of the owners.

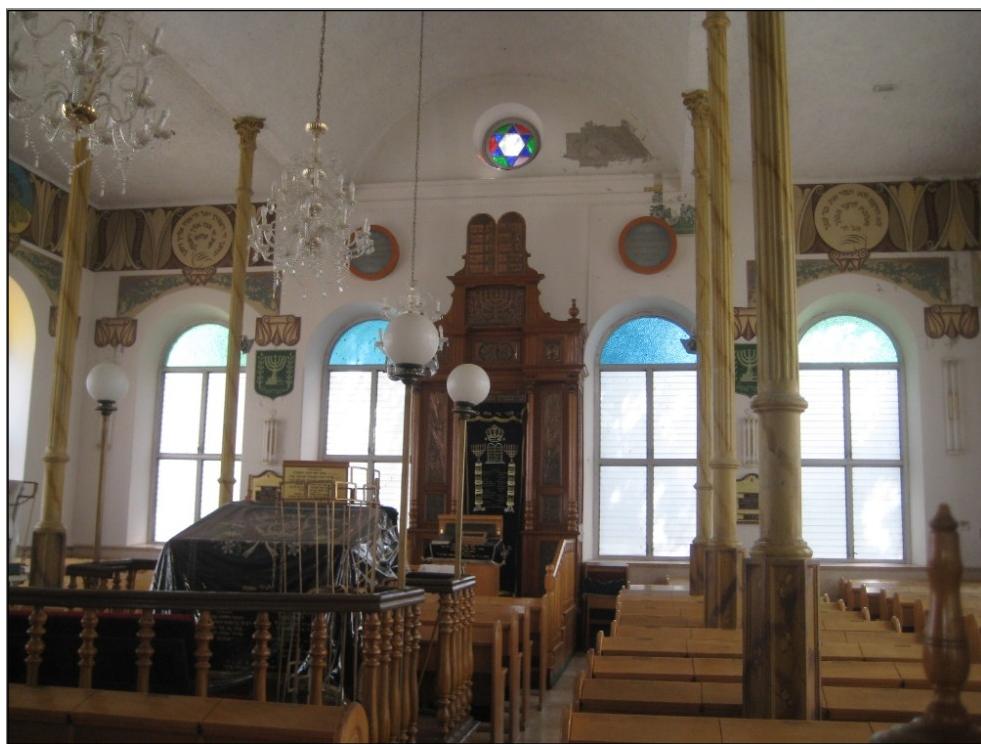
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<sup>23</sup> Rehovot Heritage Site, <http://www.rehovot-archive.org.il/Doc.asp?DynamicContentID=1163> (accessed April 2018)

Michael Lutsky was the first carpenter in Rehovot and was nicknamed "Reb Michal the carpenter." Among his works are the Holy Ark in the Great synagogue and the carpentry work in Beit Ha'am.



Ohel Sarah Synagogue in Rehovot built in 1903, 1912 (Rehovot Heritage Site)



Ohel Sarah Synagogue ark built by Michael Lutsky in 1903, 2015 (Micha Netser)

He died during World War I, on July 8, 1915, at the age of 51 and was buried in the old cemetery in Rehovot. The inscription on his tombstone read: "A man who enjoys the gift of his own hands."

Chava was born to her parents Eliezer and Sara Lea Matesky in Stashan near Pinsk, on January 13, 1861. She immigrated to Israel with her family, as mentioned above, and with the death of her husband Michael opened a small grocery store to support her children aged 12 to 18. After the First World War, with the increase in the number of residents of the *moshavah*, she made a living by renting out rooms in the courtyard, and during the course of her life in the *moshava* she became known as a righteous woman. When people starved for bread, she established the "Lina" association in the moshav, which dealt with hospitality, and won the commemoration of her name on one of the streets, Chava Lutsky Street.

Chava died on March 28, 1960 at 99 years of age. She was buried in the old cemetery in Rehovot, near the grave of her husband Michael.

#### Interview with Esther Jewler (continued)

*Zayde's mother, Chava, moved from Jaffa to Rishon Le-Zion with the family and from there they went to Rehovot, and she was instrumental in resettling a lot of refugees from Hitler's Europe. As a result of that, a street was named after her in Rehovot. It was called the Chava Lutsky Street, which was her name. So it was a nice tribute to her. She died at age 103 in Rehovot.*



Rehovot street sign honoring Chava Lutsky (Micha Netser)

*Zayde didn't say too much about what it was like to live in Palestine in those days, except that he never remembered any tension between the Arabs and the Jews. He didn't recall any of that. He was around 20 when he came to this country.*

In the 1860's, in response to growing anti-Semitism, Jewish intellectuals began to transform the messianic concept of a "return to Zion" into the political concept of a "return to Palestine." They maintained that Jews could no longer find a safe haven by fleeing from one country to another to escape persecution but rather needed to establish a country of their own.

In 1882, following the pogroms, Leo Pinsker (1821-1891), a respected Russian-Jewish doctor, wrote his classic "Auto-Emancipation: A Warning to His Kinfolk by a Russian Jew". In this, he argued that Jews would forever be unwanted, reviled strangers in the Diaspora and that they needed to evacuate Europe and move to a "Promised Land". "Though you prove patriots a thousand times...some fine morning you find yourselves crossing the border and you are reminded by the mob that you are, after all, nothing but vagrants and parasites, outside the protection of the law."<sup>24</sup>

According to Pinsker, the Jews were "everywhere [guests], and nowhere at home". Salvation could be achieved only through exodus and settlement in a homeland, the re-creation of the Jewish nation, living on its own soil, in a country of its own.

The pogroms caused a significant upsurge in support for Zionism. In the 1880s, the Zionist Rabbi Samuel Mohilever founded a political action organization *Hovevei Zion*<sup>25</sup> and launched the first Zionist immigration to Palestine. The First Aliyah, or wave of immigration to Palestine, was in response to the 1881 Russian pogroms. In 1882 there were agricultural settlements established at Petach Tickva, Mikvei Israel, Rishon Le-Zion, Rosh Pina, and Zichron Yaakov. By 1891, the several "New Yishuv" settlements had a combined population of less than 2,500. These first Jewish farmers were instrumental in securing the first modern Jewish settlement in Palestine through their commitment to remain on the land, and their endurance of the desert heat, the risk of malaria, and the assaults of Arabs.

Theodore Herzl (1860 – 1904) is credited with inventing Zionism as a political movement. In 1896, in "Der Judenstaat" (The Jewish State), he wrote that establishing a state in Palestine would give rise to a "new Jew", "a wondrous breed of Jews". In his book he stated:

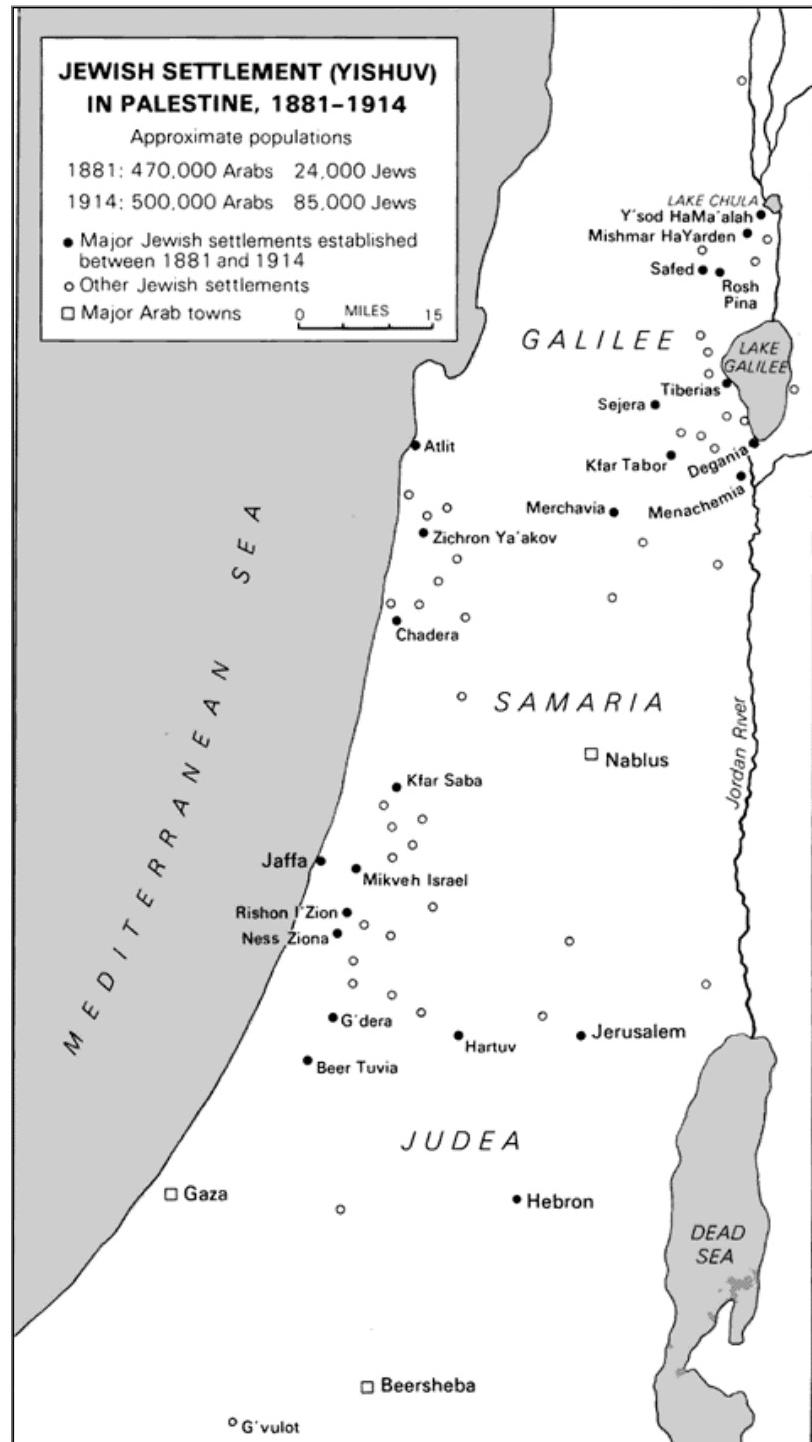
*We are a people, one people. We have everywhere tried honestly to integrate with the national communities surrounding us and to retain only our faith. We are not permitted to do so... In vain do we exert ourselves to increase the glory of our fatherlands by achievements in art and in science and their wealth by our contributions to commerce... We are denounced as strangers... If only they would leave us in peace... But I do not think they will.*

Zionist ideology sought honor and respect in place of the shame and contempt found in the Diaspora. The new Jew would be aggressive, assertive, and proud.

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<sup>24</sup> From *The Origins of Zionism*, by David Vital, 1975

<sup>25</sup> The Hovevei Zion ("Lovers of Zion) was an organization that aimed to further Jewish agricultural settlement in the land of Israel. It established a foundation for modern Zionism.



Jewish settlement in Palestine, 1881 to 1914

The following figure presents a recent map of Israel. The towns of Jaffa (Yafo), Rishon Le-Zion, and Rehovot are located near Tel Aviv.



Recent map of Israel (Rand McNally)

Michel and Chava lived for a time in Rishon Le-Zion ("First in Zion"), which was founded in 1882 and was one of the first villages of modern Israel. It was established as a Jewish agricultural settlement south of Tel Aviv with funds from the wealthy Jewish philanthropist Baron Edmond de Rothschild.



Street in early Jewish settlement of Rishon Le-Zion

After living in Rishon Le-Zion, Michel and Chava Lutsky moved to Rehovot, which was founded in 1890 by pioneers of the First Aliyah.

Rehovot was founded as a moshava<sup>26</sup> in 1890 by Polish Jewish immigrants who had come with the First Aliyah, seeking to establish a township independent of the Baron Edmond James de Rothschild, on land purchased from a Christian Arab by the Menuha Venahala society, an organization in Warsaw that raised funds for Jewish settlement in Eretz Israel.

In 1890, the region was an uncultivated wasteland with no trees, houses or water. The moshava's houses were initially built along two parallel streets: Jacob Street and Benjamin Street, before later expanding, and vineyards, almond orchards and citrus groves were planted, but the inhabitants grappled with agricultural failures, plant diseases, and marketing problems.<sup>27</sup>

In June 1990, a celebration was held in Israel for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the town of Rehovot. On April 3, 1990, Micha Netser who is the son of Rifka Lutsky, Solomon's sister, sent a letter to Esther (Lutsky) Jewler and her family inviting them to the celebration. Micha, who lives in Holon, Israel, stated in his letter: "In the first week of June 1990, there will be a meeting of the descendants of the pioneers who established Rehovot. Our family will meet at Aunt Yehudit's [Lutsky] house and afterwards all pioneer families will meet in the public hall. Will you join us?" Unfortunately, the family was not able to attend.

<sup>26</sup> A Moshava was a form of rural Jewish settlement in Ottoman Palestine, established by the members of the Old Yishuv since late 1870s and during the first two waves of Jewish Zionist immigration - the First and Second Aliyah. In a moshava, as opposed to later communal settlements like the kibbutz and the moshav, all the land and property are privately owned. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moshava> (accessed April 2018)

<sup>27</sup> Rehovot, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rehovot> (accessed April 2018)

Michel Lutsky died in 1915 at the age of 50. Chava owned and maintained orange groves and earned an income from them. After World War II, she worked to assist in the resettlement of Jewish refugees.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Micha Netser on Matesky and Lutsky Family History in Palestine**

Written by Micha Netser whose mother was Rifka Lutsky. He lives in Holon, Israel and provided this on September 14, 2000.

*I shall give you the story of the Matezki - Luzki family since the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Hava (Matezki) and Michael Luzki made Aliya to The Land of Israel (at that time it was the Turkish-Ottoman Palestine) from Russia (at that time, later Poland, now Belarus) about 1886, as their first child, Natan, was born 1885 in Russia and the second, Shalom (your grandfather), was born 1887 in Yafo (Jaffa). I don't know exactly when they moved to Rehovot, supposed to be at the early 1890s, as their third child was born 1897 in Rehovot.*

*Michael Luzki was the first carpenter in Rehovot and was known as Reb Mikhel Hanagar (Michael the Carpenter). He was professional in roof making. At that time the Turkish government did allow house building by the Jewish settlers, but the law prohibited destruction of houses if the roof was installed. The way to overcome the restriction was fast wall building starting in the evening and the roof construction completed at sunrise. Reb Mikhel prepared prefabricated roof assemblies, which were scattered in several locations in the settlement. When the walls of a new house were erected, the working groups arrived upon his order with the roof parts, which were put together rapidly. In the morning, the Turkish Police had to approve the new construction.*

*Reb Mikhel was known as the jokester of Rehovot. For example, on the Eve of Simchat-Tora, when all the settlers were in the synagogue, he called the youngsters of Rehovot and they entered the houses (which were not locked that time), took some of the cooked food ready for the holiday from the hot pots in the kitchens, and brought it to the synagogue to make a competition of which family has the best meal.*

*Michael Luzki died at the beginning of the First World War at the age of 50. We have no further details about his parents (only the name of his father – Shalom), brothers and sisters, or place of origin.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*Hava and Michael had 8 children – 5 sons and 3 daughters, Natan 1885, Shalom 1887, Haya 1893(?), Dov 1897, Meir 1900(?), Rivka (my mother) 1902 (early), Yehudit and Yaakov (twins) 1902 (late). The three eldest sons immigrated to the United States before the first world war.*

*The first known names of Matezki are Sara Lea and Eliezer. They had 6 children: Hava (above mentioned), Dina (+Kleitnik), Memka (+Begin), Masha (+Pilchik), Feigel (+Sanderovitz), Hershel (+unknown) and Eliyahu (+ Ita Shapira). The most detailed data I have is about Hava and Eliyahu, as they are my grandparents, the first was my mother's mother and the second was my father's father.*

*Ita Shapira was one of Izik Yudel Shapira's 6 children. Izik Yudel was married to Gitel Fialkov, one of Israel Fialkov's 11 children.*

*Here I arrive to my own family. My parents, Hayim and Rivka had two children, I Michael (1930) and my sister Tova (1933). Our mother died very young (45). We grew up in Rehovot until we got married, and then moved, Tova with Yosef Gal-Ed to Ashqelon, and I with Ofra Shraga to Holon. Tova has 2 children and 4 grandchildren. I have 3 children and 6 grandchildren. Our own story will follow sometime.*

*I consider my family tree to be a part of Jewish genealogy. Therefore, I handed my data to Bet HaTefutzot (House of Diaspora) in Tel-Aviv, where they hold many Jewish family trees and supply information to everyone searching his family relationships and history. Several persons have contacted me as they found their family names in Beth HaTefutzot and some were real relatives.*

\* \* \* \* \*

The following is a postcard sent by Meyer Lutsky in Palestine to his brothers in the United States.



Postcard sent to Nathan, Shalom, and Dov Lutsky in America  
by Meyer Lutsky in Rehovot, Palestine in 1919 to 1922

The Hebrew inscription is translated by Michael Netser:

*My dear brothers Natan, Shalom and Dov,*

*We are alive and in peace. I would ask you to write a lot of letters. I wrote to you some 20 letters and did not get any answer. We send our regards to you,*

*Your brother Meyer Lutsky*

An interpretation of the postcard is provided by Michael Netser:

This letter was sent, as I understand it, after World War I. On the postal stamp, I read ARMY 21 JA ?? Palestine was captured by the British army in October 1917 and the war ended in November 1918. The army administration lasted till 1922 and then turned into a civil one. So this letter was written between 1919 and 1922. The two “??” – are they 19?

The picture shows Rehovot at that period. The big house on the hill at the center is the Synagogue. The street on the left is the main one, called Ya'akov Street. The family house was on the left side of that street and is hidden at the back of the hill.

\* \* \* \*

The following is an aerial photo of Rehovot from 1918.



Aerial photo of Rehovot, 1918 (Michael Netser)  
Lutsky family house is circled

The photo is interpreted by Michael Netser:

*Enclosed is an air photo dated 1918, in which the Lutsky family house is seen. Ya'akov Street is the wide one to the left. At about the middle of it a narrow path comes from the right. The house just on the opposite side of the street, surrounded by a white area, is OURS.*

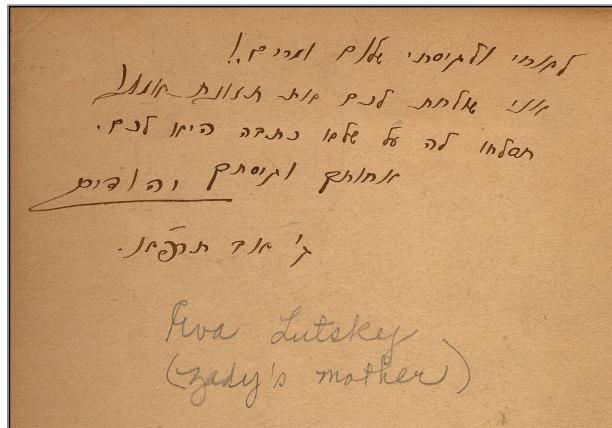


Photo of Chava Matesky sent to Shalom and Minnie Lutsky in America  
by Yehudit Lutsky in Palestine, August 1921

Hebrew inscription translated by Michael Netser:

*3 Av 5681 (5 August 1921)*

*To my brother and sister-in-law Shalom and Miriam I send this photo of our mother.*

*Forgive her for not writing.*

*Your sister and sister-in-law, Yehudit*

## *Lutsky's Leave Palestine for the United States*

Sol Lutsky and several of his brothers left Palestine and came to America in search of greater opportunity.

## **Interview with Esther Jewler (continued)**

*Solomon Lutsky's father [Michel Lutsky] had died early. He had already come to this country [United States] because Jaffa was an Arab city and there wasn't much in the way of making a living there. So he and his brothers came to America one by one.*

The Ottoman Turks ruled over Palestine from 1517 through 1917. The Ottoman rule of Palestine is described<sup>28</sup>

With a gradual decline in the quality of Ottoman rule, the country was brought to a state of widespread neglect. By the end of the 18th century, much of the land was owned by absentee landlords and leased to impoverished tenant farmers, and taxation was crippling and capricious. The great forests of Galilee and the Carmel mountain range were denuded; swamp and desert encroached on agricultural land.

<sup>28</sup> Pre-State Israel: Under Ottoman Rule, <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/ottoman-rule-1517-1917> (accessed April 2018)



Jaffa, Palestine street scene, early 20th century (Avotaynu)



Jaffa, Palestine street scene, early 20th century (Avotaynu)

The 19th century saw the first signs of progress, with various Western powers jockeying for position, often through missionary activities. British, French and American scholars launched studies of biblical geography and archeology; Britain, France, Russia, Austria and the United States opened consulates in Jerusalem. Steamships began to ply regular routes between the Palestine and Europe; postal and telegraphic connections were installed; the first road was built connecting Jerusalem and Jaffa.

### *The Family of Mordechai Garbus and Frumah Matesky*

#### *Mordechai and Frumah Garbus's Family*

Mordechai and Frumah Garbus had eight children – four sons and four daughters. Their first child, Minnie, was born in 1898 and their last child Shmuel was born in 1908. All of the children were born in the area of Pinsk, in the Minsk Guberniya of Czarist Russia. Mordechai and Frumah's dates of birth are not known. However, if it is assumed that they had their eight children over the ten-year period when they were from 25 to 35 years old, then they would have been born in the early 1870s.

Along with Mordechai and Frumah, three of the children were killed by the Nazis in 1941 – Itke, Chava, and Golda. They were all in their thirties and had families. Israel and Itzik were soldiers in the Polish army and were killed in the early 1940s while fighting the Germans. Minnie escaped to New York in 1913 and established a family there. Nisson served in the Polish army during World War II and afterwards emigrated to Israel. Shmuel immigrated to Israel prior to the war and established a family there. The following table provides birth, residence, and death information on Mordechai and Frumah Garbus and their children.

Mordechai and Frumah Garbus and Their Children  
Birth, Residence, and Death Information

Name	Birth Date	Birth Place	Residence	Death Date
Mordechai Garbus	Early 1870s (est.)	Czarist Russia	Byelorussian S.S.R	1941*
Frumah Matesky	Early 1870s (est.)	Czarist Russia	Byelorussian S.S.R	1941*
Minnie (Memke) Garbus	May 15, 1898	Pinsk, Russia	Silver Spring, MD	Sep. 26, 1979
Itke Garbus	Unknown	Pinsk, Russia	Byelorussian S.S.R	1941*
Chava Garbus	Unknown	Pinsk, Russia	Byelorussian S.S.R	1941*
Golda Garbus	Unknown	Pinsk, Russia	Byelorussian S.S.R	1941*
Nisson Garbus	1906	Pinsk, Russia	Israel	Mid 1990s
Israel Garbus	Unknown	Pinsk, Russia	Byelorussian S.S.R	Early 1940s**
Itzik Garbus	Unknown	Pinsk, Russia	Byelorussian S.S.R	Early 1940s**
Shmuel Garbus	1908	Pinsk, Russia	Israel	Jul.4, 1987

\* Believed to have been killed in August 1941 by Nazi *Einsatzgruppen* when they murdered the Jews of Pinsk.

\*\* Killed in battle fighting the Germans in World War II.

Portraits are provided of the Garbus family along with a family tree chart. Then photos of the family are presented. Finally, a brief biography is provided for each of the children of Mordechai and Frumah Garbus in the order of their birth.



Mordechai  
Garbus



Frumah  
Matesky



Minnie  
Garbus

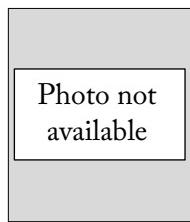


Photo not  
available



Itke  
Garbus



Chava  
Garbus



Golda  
Garbus



Nisson  
Garbus



Israel  
Garbus

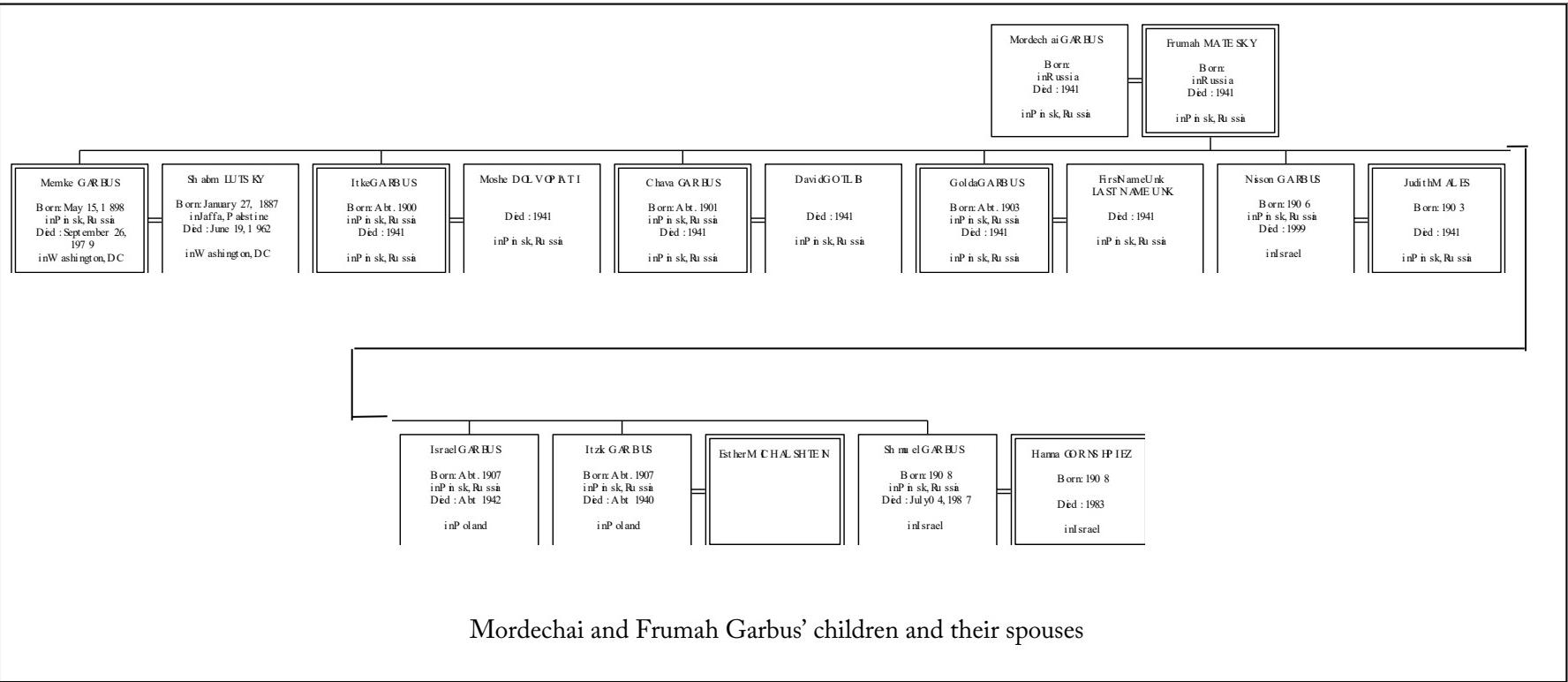


Itzik  
Garbus



Shmuel  
Garbus

The family of Mordechai Garbus and Frumah Matesky





Garbus Family, ca. early 1920s (Jewler family)

From left standing: Golda or Chava\*, Israel\*, and Nisson (?) Garbus  
From left seated: Frumah (Matesky), Itzik\*, and Mordechai Garbus

\*Based on photo identification by Leah Dolvopiaty, 2000



Mordechai Garbus (right) and unknown male, ca. early 1920s (Jewler family)

Photo embossed lower right with "Hot. Gotlieb, Pinsk"

Photo courtesy Leah Dolvopiaty, 2000

### Minnie Garbus

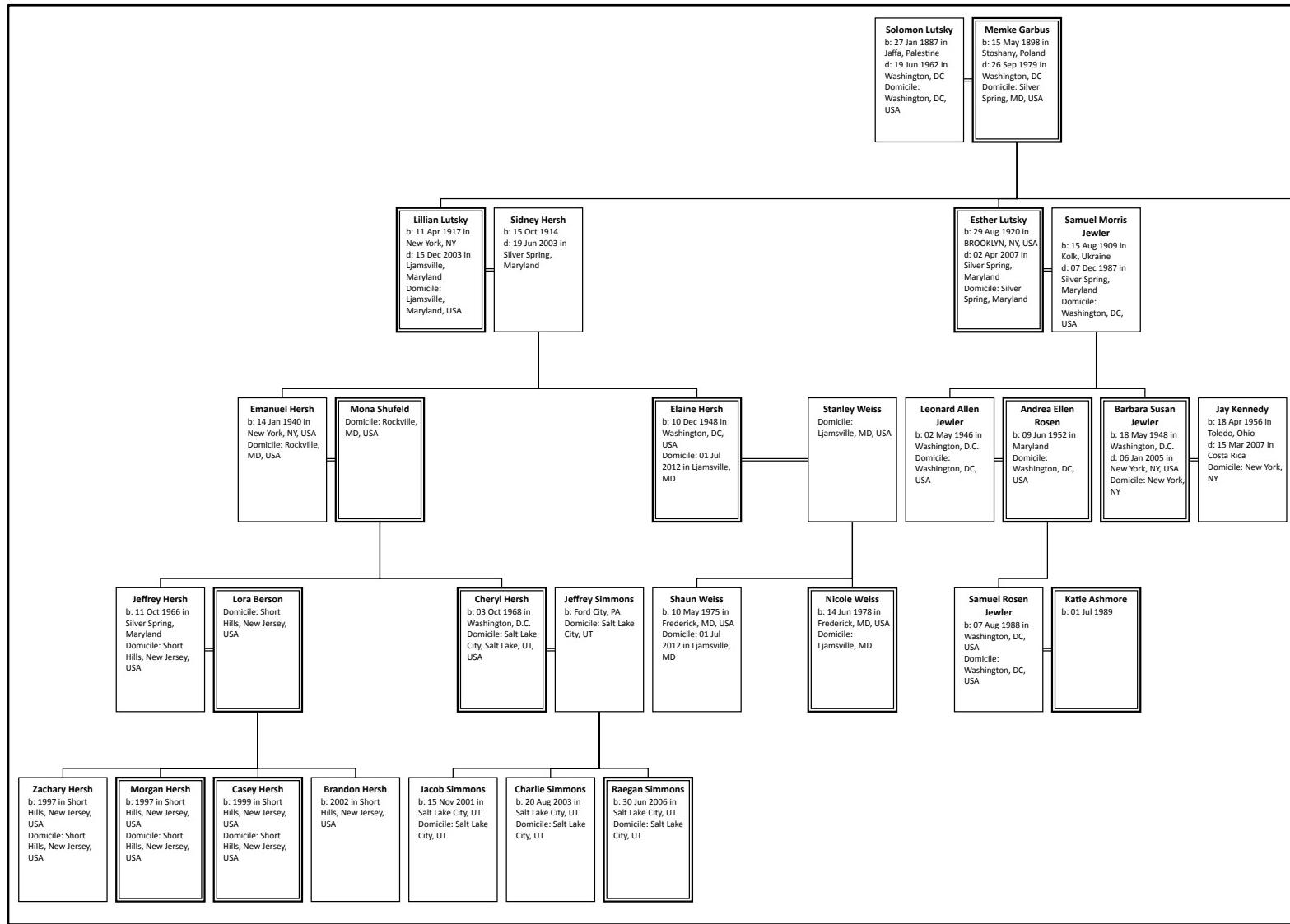
Minnie, the oldest child of Mordechai and Frumah Garbus, was born May 15, 1898 in the Minsk Gubernia of Czarist Russia. She lived with her family in the village of Stoshany near the city of Pinsk. At the age of 16, she fled her home and traveled to New York City where she lived with an aunt. Minnie was one of only three siblings to survive World War II – the others were Nisson and Shmuel who emigrated to Israel.



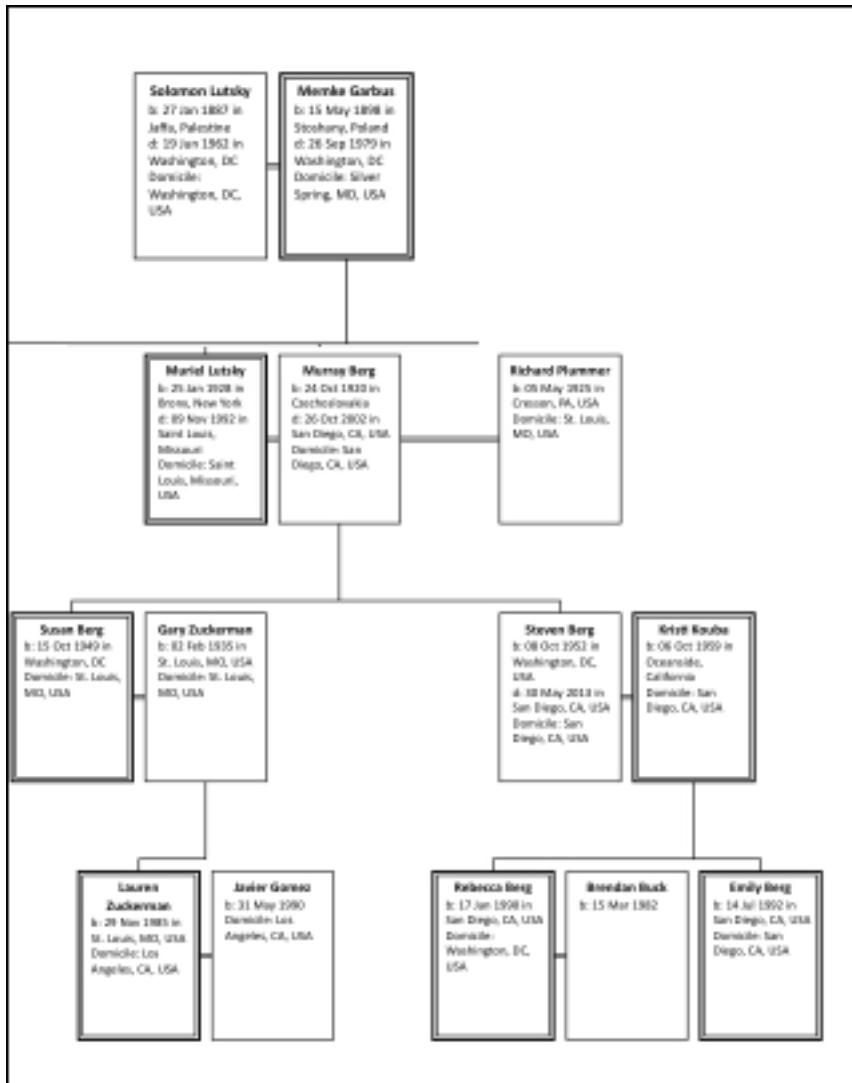
Minnie Garbus and Solomon Lutsky (Jewler family)

Minnie married Solomon Lutsky and had three children. Minnie and Solomon operated several hardware stores in New York City and eventually moved to Washington D.C. Minnie was an expert seamstress and performed this service well into her later years.

Minnie was a thoughtful and inquisitive person who loved to engage in spirited discussions. She was also very committed and loving to her family. Minnie died September 26, 1979. Further information on Minnie's life is presented in other sections.



Descendants of Solomon Lutsky and Minnie Garbus (page 1 of 2)

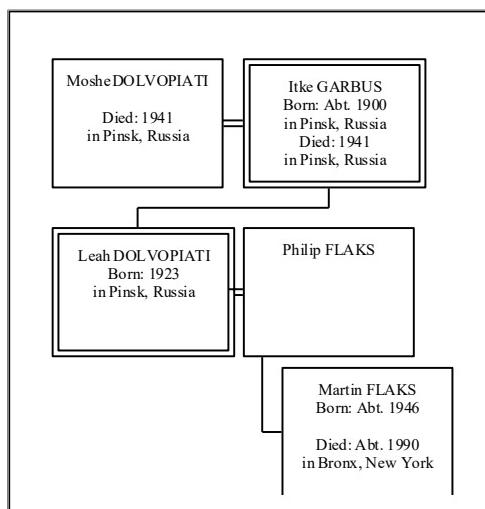


Descendants of Solomon Lutsky and Minnie Garbus (page 2 of 2)

## **Itke Garbus**

Itke, the second child of Mordechai and Frumah Garbus, is estimated to have been born around 1900 in the Minsk Gubernia of Czarist Russia. She lived with her family in the village of Stoshany near the city of Pinsk.

Itke married Moshe Dolvopiat and had one child, Leah. Moshe was from Lahishyn and that is where he, Itke, and Leah lived. During World War II, Leah was transported to Siberia. When she returned home, she was told that the entire family had been killed by the Nazi *Einsatzgruppen*. She met her husband, Philip Flaks, at a Displaced Person's (DP) camp. Leah and Philip traveled to New York City and raised a child Martin. Philip died in 1986. Martin died in 1991 at the age of 44.

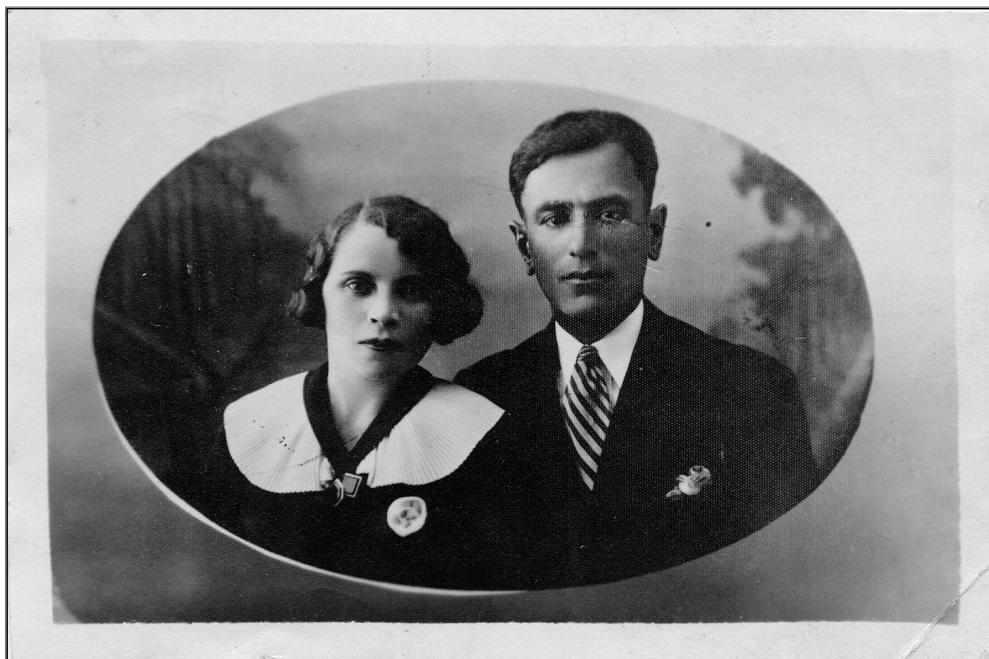


Descendants of Itke Garbus and Moshe Dolvopiat

In the early 2000s, Leah lived alone in a ground floor apartment in the Bronx, New York. She was the last surviving member of the Garbus family who had lived in Pinsk. On November 19, 2000, my mother, Esther, and I interviewed Leah over the phone and her comments are included in this document. Leah identified several of the Garbus family members in old photographs although there were sometimes inconsistencies in these identifications. Leah died on Dec. 23, 2003, one week after her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### **Chava Garbus**

Chava, the third child of Mordechai and Frumah Garbus, is estimated to have been born around 1900 in the Pinsk Gubernia of Czarist Russia. She lived with her family in the village of Stoshany near the city of Pinsk.



Chava Garbus and husband David Laib Gotlib, ca. 1920s (Jewler family)  
Identification based on phone interview with Leah Dolvopiati Nov. 19, 2000

Chava married David Laib Gotlib. According to Leah Dolvopiati, David discouraged Chava from having contact with her family. Chava and David were killed by the Nazis when they captured Pinsk in 1941.

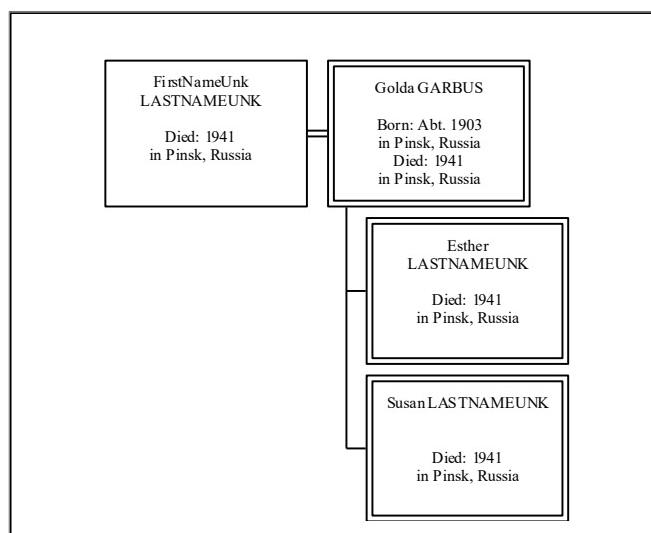
### **Golda Garbus**

Golda, the fourth child of Mordechai and Frumah Garbus, is estimated to have been born after 1900 in the Pinsk Gubernia of Czarist Russia. She lived with her family in the village of Stoshany near the city of Pinsk.

According to Leah Dolvopiati, Golda married and had twin girls – Esther and Susan. It was Golda and her husband who told her parents to move to Pinsk to escape the pogroms. Golda and her family were killed by the Nazis when they captured Pinsk in 1941.



Golda and Israel Garbus, ca. 1920s (Jewler family)  
Identification based on phone interview with Leah Dolvopiat Nov. 19, 2000

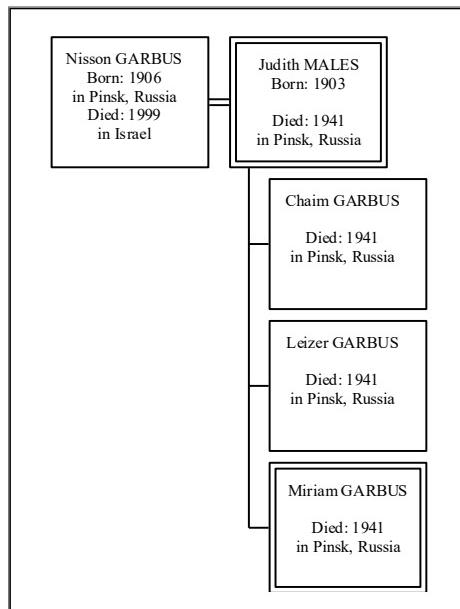


Descendants of Golda Garbus and [Unknown Name]

## Nisson Garbus

Nisson, the fifth child of Mordechai and Frumah Garbus, was born in 1906 in the Minsk Gubernia of Czarist Russia. He lived with his family in the village of Stoshany near the city of Pinsk.

Nisson married Judith Males and had three children – Chaim, Leizer, and Miriam. According to Leah Dolvopiati, after Nisson married, he moved away and became a merchant on a ship. He had a store on a boat “which sold everything.” Nisson was a successful businessman who “made a lot of killings”, that is, he made money. Like his mother, Nisson “did everything” and was “very handy.” He would return often to visit with his mother and father.



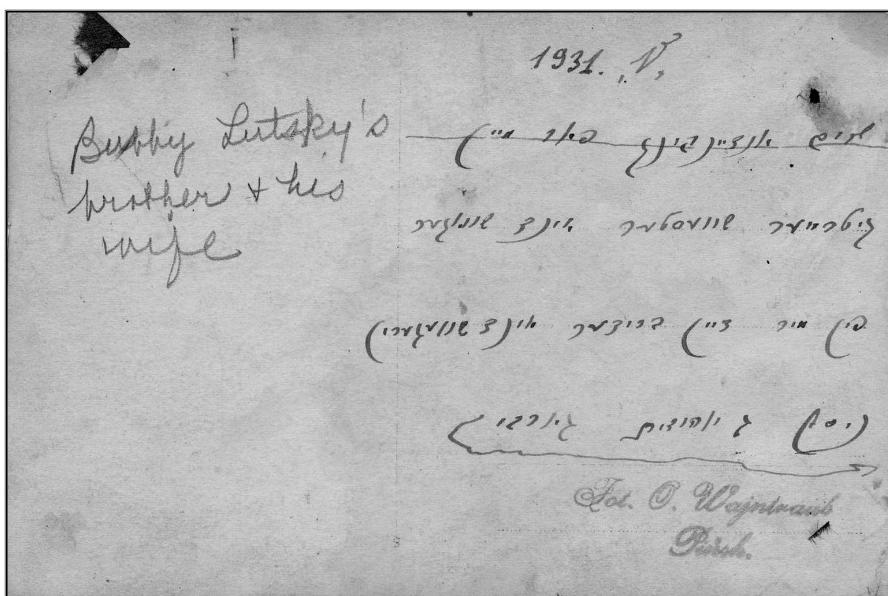
Descendants of Nisson Garbus and Judith Males



Pinsk market on Pina River, ca. 1920 (Avotaynu)



Nisson Garbus and wife Yehudit Males, 1931 (J. Wajntraub, Pinsk)

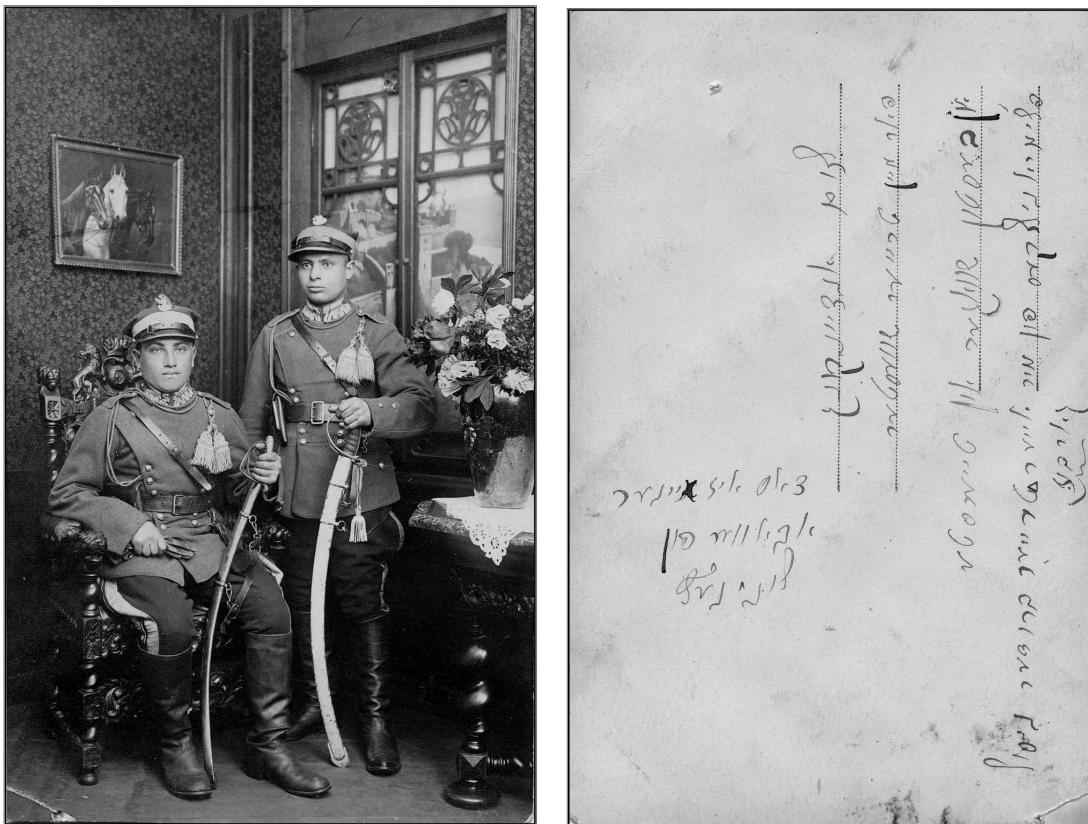


Nisson Garbus and wife Yehudit Males (reverse)

*A souvenir to my dear sister and brother-in-law  
from your brother and sister-in-law  
Nisan and Yehudit Garbus.*

Photo postcard to Minnie and Solomon Lutsky translated by Michael Netser, Holon, Israel, Nov. 20, 2000

Nisson, along with his brothers Israel and Itzik, joined the Polish armed forces in World War II. Nisson and Israel were in the cavalry as evidenced by the following photo sent to Minnie and Solomon Lutsky.



Nisson Garbus (left) and Itzik Garbus\* (right) in cavalry uniforms (and reverse),  
ca. 1930s (Jewler family)

*For my dear sister and to my best brother-in-law and the dearest...nieces.  
From me your brother, Nisson Garbus*

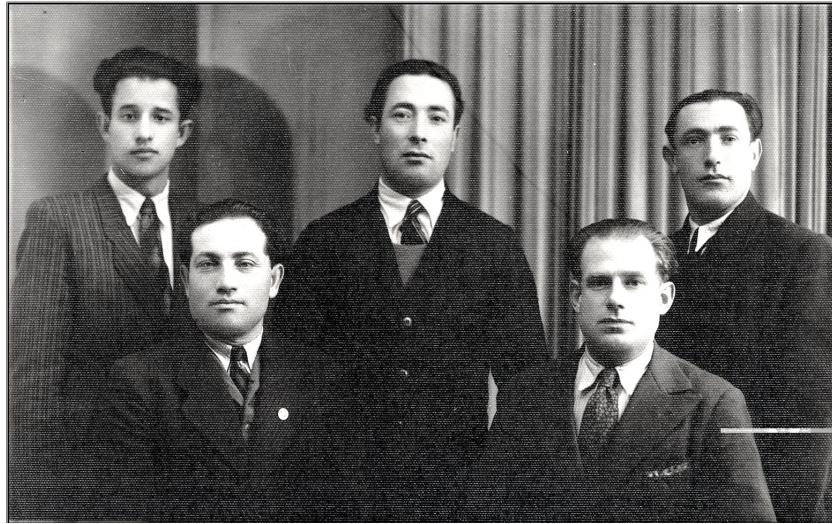
\*Identification based on phone interview with Leah Dolvopiat Nov. 19, 2000

During the war, Nisson was captured by the Russian army and sent to Siberia. When the war ended, and he returned home, he found that his wife and children had been killed by the Nazis.

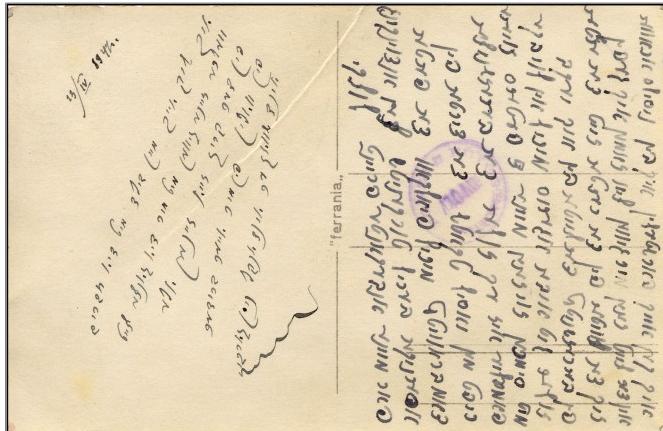
Through the aid of the Haganah<sup>29</sup>, Nisson made his way to Israel. There he married a woman who owned a grocery store, which he ran for many years. I visited with Nisson in Israel in 1980. At his house, he served me hot tea in a glass, which was an old eastern European tradition. He spoke Hebrew, Yiddish, and Polish and I only spoke English. Through the use of my Hebrew-English dictionary, we managed to communicate. He died in 1999.

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<sup>29</sup> This was a Jewish paramilitary organization in the British Mandate of Palestine, which became the core of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). It was active from 1921 to 1948. Wikipedia (accessed in March 2018)



Nisson Garbus (second from left) and friends, 1947 (Jewler family)



From Nisson Garbus:

*I send you my photo with the friends (Chaverim) who had been with me during the whole war (krieg). They are from Wohlin district. From your brother, brother-in-law, and uncle, Nisson Garbus. 13 April 1947*

From Ya'acov Zoler:

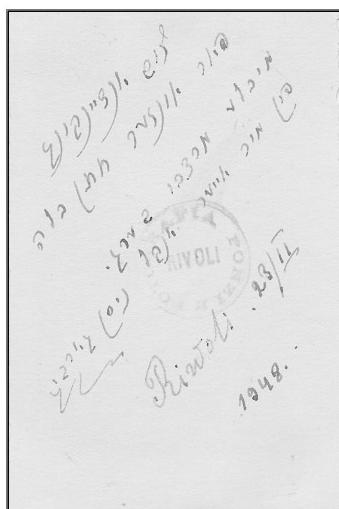
*I can represent myself: I am Nisson's friend from the time we were together. I recognize the persons, from the right side, the first is from Bereznitz. The second is myself, Ya'acov Zoler, my regards to Michael, Leibke and Sim-ha who are my three uncles, their family is Zoler, too. The one from Bereznitz is Vasil Takatch. The third is from Dombrovitz, Michael Fialkov. The fourth is from Sarnik, Berl Turkenitz. A souvenir to my unknown friend Lutski.*

Translated by Michael Netser, Holon, Israel, November 22, 2000

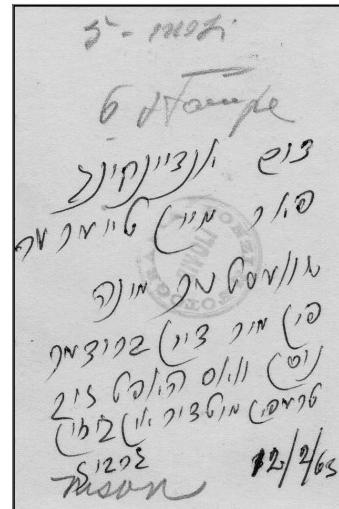
It should be noted that the second writer, Ya'acov Zoler, (located second from the right in the photo) must have known that Esther Jewler, the daughter of Solomon and Minnie Lutsky, had married into the Zoler (or Zuler) family. He refers to his three Jewler uncles, Michael (or Max, Esther's father in law), Leibke (or Louis), and Simcha. The three Jewler brothers had immigrated from Volhynia Gubernia of Czarist Russia in the 1910s (also known as the Wohlin district as referenced) to Washington D.C.



Nisson Garbus, 1948 (Jewler family)



Nisson Garbus, Feb. 23, 1948 (reverse)



Nisson Garbus, Dec. 2, 1965 (reverse)

**1948 Inscription:** *A memory to our Hatan and Kala (bride and groom) Muriel and Mordechai Berg from your uncle Nisson Garbus. Rivoli, Feb. 23, 1948.*

The photo appears to be sent from Rivoli, Italy when Nisson was on his way to Israel as a refugee after the war. It was sent to Muriel [Lutsky] and Murray Berg prior to their June 1948 wedding.

**1965 Inscription:** *A souvenir to my dear sister Minnie from your brother Nisson, hope to meet you healthy. Nisson Garbus.*

Photo and message were sent to Minnie Lutsky two years after her reunion with Nisson in Israel in 1963.

Translated by Michael Netser, Holon, Israel, July 2, 2001

### **Israel Garbus**

Israel, the sixth child of Mordechai and Frumah Garbus, was born around 1906 in the Pinsk Gubernia of Czarist Russia. He lived with his family in the village of Stoshany near the city of Pinsk.

Israel joined the Polish army during World War II and was killed while in service. Israel never married. (For photographs of Israel, see initial family photograph at the beginning of this section and the photograph of Golda and Israel.)

### **Itzik Garbus**

Itzik, the seventh child of Mordechai and Frumah Garbus, was born around 1907 in the Pinsk Gubernia of Czarist Russia. He lived with his family in the village of Stoshany near the city of Pinsk. He married Esther Michalshtein. They had no children.



Itzik Garbus, ca. 1920s (Jewler family)

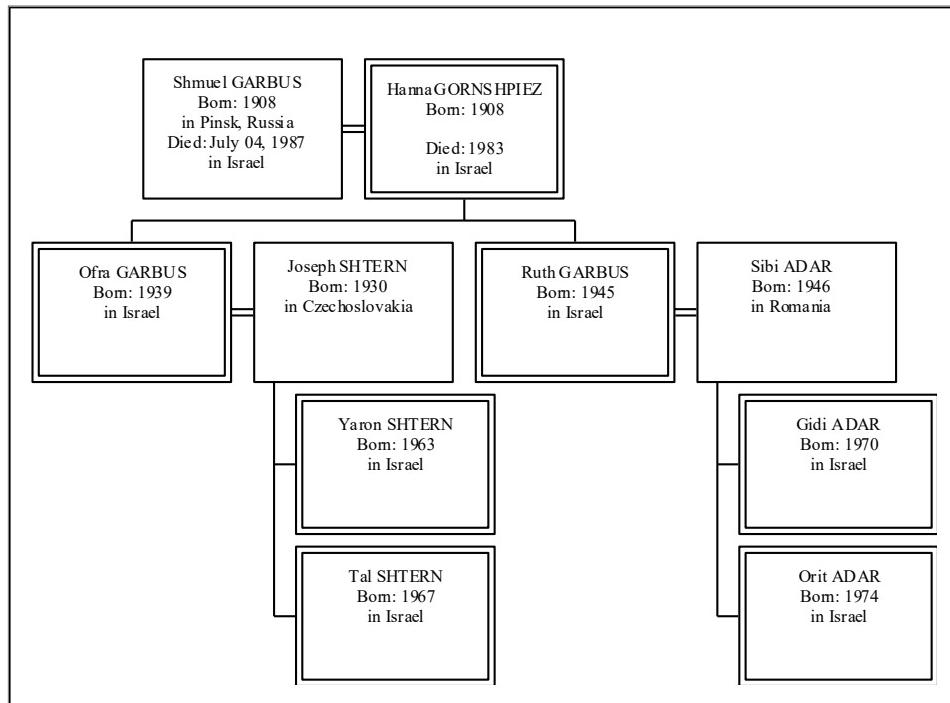
Identification based on phone interview with Leah Dolvopiat Nov. 19, 2000

In World War II, Itzik joined the Polish army and was assumed to have been killed in service when his correspondence ceased.

### **Shmuel Garbus**

Shmuel, the eighth child of Mordechai and Frumah Garbus, was born in 1908 in the Pinsk Gubernia of Czarist Russia. He lived with his family in the village of Stoshany near the city of Pinsk.

Shmuel married Hanna Gornshpiez. Sometime after 1935 and before the Nazi invasion of Poland in 1939, Shmuel and Hanna traveled to Palestine. There they raised two daughters Ofra and Ruth.

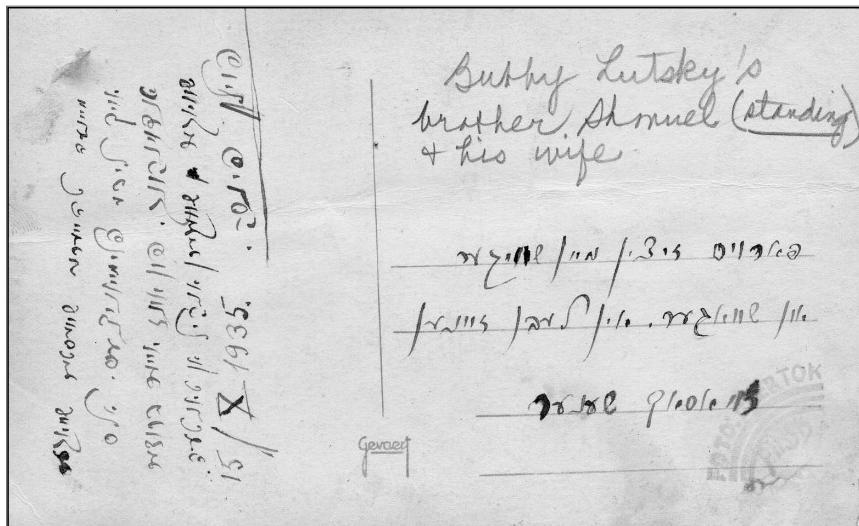


Descendants of Shmuel Garbus and Hanna Gornshpiez

Shmuel died on July 4, 1987 and Hanna died in 1983. I met with Shmuel's daughter Ruth Garbus on a trip to Israel in 1970.



Shmuel Garbus and wife Hanna Gornshpiez (standing), 1935 (Jewler family)



Shmuel Garbus and wife Hanna Gornshpiez, 1935 (reverse)

*Dear sister, brother-in-law and nephews  
from your sister in law, brother-in-law, uncle and aunt  
Poland, Pinsk, 15.10.1935  
Let be, my brother and sister-in-law, life will be better.*

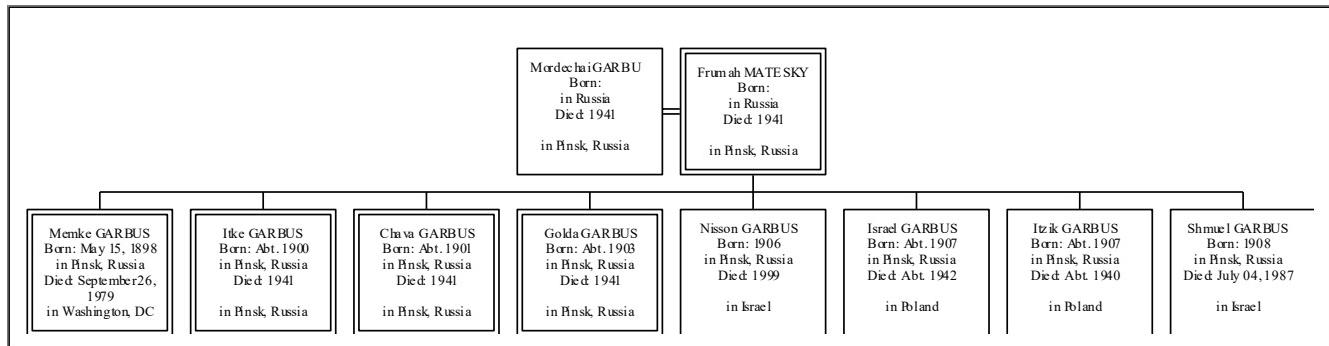
The post card was written to Minnie and Solomon Lutsky. The standing ones are Shmuel and Hanna Garbus. The sitting ones, according to the letter, should be the brother and sister-in-law or the sister and brother-in-law, of Mordechai Garbus (the father of Memka, Shmuel, Nisson and others). There are no signatures.

Translated and interpreted by Michael Netser, Holon, Israel, Nov. 20, 2000

### *Garbus Family in Czarist Russia*

[Esther Jewler continues] *Bubbe [Minnie Garbus Lutsky] was the oldest of eight children. There were four girls and then four boys. The only other survivors of Hitler were Nisson and Shmuel [Minnie's brothers], who lived in Israel. It was a thrill for her to see them after 50 years. She left two young boys and met two middle-aged men.*

Esther's mother, Minnie Garbus, was born near the town of Pinsk on May 15, 1898. She was named *Memke* in Hebrew. (It is not known which ancestor she was named in honor of.) As previously stated, she was the oldest of eight children born to Mordechai Garbus and Frumah Matesky.



The family of Mordechai Garbus and Frumah Matesky

Mordechai and Frumah lived in the Minsk Gubernia. They lived in the village of Stoshany (pronounced sta-shan') which is located approximately ten miles north of the city of Pinsk. [This was determined in Minnie's 1962 interview and in Leah Dolvopiat's 2000 interview - that the Garbus family lived in Stoshany.] Minnie also stated that family goods and produce were sold and exchanged in the town of Lahishyn (pronounced la- hi'-shun), which was two hours away. Lahishyn is approximately seven miles northwest of Stoshany – a distance that could be covered in about two hours by foot or horse-drawn carriage.

In later years, Minnie and her husband, Solomon Lutsky, joined the *landsmannschaften* for Lahishyn in New York called the "Lahishin Social Benevolent Society".

*Landsmannschaften* were immigrant benevolent organizations formed and named after the members' birthplace or East European residence, for mutual aid, hometown aid, and social purposes. The benefits which they attempted to provide included sick benefits, interest-free loans, and burial rights and aid to families during the period of mourning. They also aided their overseas brethren and helped to bring many to the United States. By 1914 New York City knew of at least 534 of these organizations with membership ranging from 50 to 500.

The number of *landsmannschaften* grew rapidly during World War I, and these organizations, representing most of the cities and towns of Eastern Europe, dispatched millions of dollars in relief supplies and cash. After the war, the *landsmannschaften* utilized their money and membership to finance the relief work carried on by the Joint Distribution Committee, Hadassah, and other organizations, and to oppose antisemitism and discrimination in its varied forms.<sup>30</sup>

<sup>30</sup> *Landsmannschaften*, Jewish Virtual Library, <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/landsmannschaften> (accessed April 2018)



Lahishyn Social Benefit Society, New York, 1942 (Jewler family)  
Solomon Lutsky top row, second from right

In the record of member names of the Lahishyn Social Benefit Society of New York, there are several Matesky family names represented. Many of these names are listed as appearing in the 1942 Annual Report of the Society. These are the counts of those family names.

- Begun: 14
- Garbus: 8
- Kletenik: 1
- Lutsky: 16
- Matetsky: 6

\* \* \* \*

#### Minnie (Garbus) Lutsky on life in Czarist Russia

*The Russian town of Stoshany (pronounced sta-shan by Minnie) consisted of one street about a mile long. Wooden houses with straw roofs stretched along its length. Between each house there was a fruit orchard or garden of vegetables. Numerous trees made a protective arch along the length of the street. In summer it was abloom with flowers, fruits, and vegetables everywhere. In winter, it was frigid cold. Then, women would gather in homes in front of fireplaces and spin flax to weave their own linens. The Jewish men gathered in one of the four Jewish homes in town.*

*In Russia, Jews were not allowed to own their own homes, so they would buy them under the name of one of the gentiles in the village. The so-called gentile owner would periodically come to our home to remind us that he was the owner. He would bring his male friends into our home whenever he wanted. He and his friends would tell stories making fun of us. They smoked and spat on the floor. My elderly grandfather was shoved back and forth in search of a seat and was told, "Why would you want a seat? The house is mine and so are the benches."*

\*\*\*\*\*

*The four Jewish families rented land from the minister. All towns were given land for churches from the government. The families paid the minister 300 rubles a year for use of the land. [In those days, a ruble was worth fifty cents.]*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Stoshany had no lights in the street. In the winter, people would gather around small fireplaces with burning logs. The village was surrounded by forests. With the terrible cold, the wild animals were in a desperate search for food. The wolves from the forest were attracted to the village because of the burning fires and the abundance of livestock, which included chickens, pigs, and sheep. Attracted by the fire, they often came directly to the windows. They had to be chased off by gunfire and dogs.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*All the vegetables and produce were sold at Lahishyn, a city that was two hours away. There the townspeople bought the necessities of life that were not made at home: candles, soap, kerosene, and grease. Each family was self-sustaining – we provided our own dairy and meat. Our family sold kerosene and soap, among other things; payment usually was an exchange for other products that were needed.*

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Leah Dolvopiat on the Garbus family in Czarist Russia**

*The family lived in the village of Stoshany. Its Polish name was "Dashinska." The nearest town was Lahishyn. The city of Pinsk was nearby.*

*Frumah and Mordechai [Garbus] had a business and a farm. Mordechai was a carpenter – he could make everything. Frumah was very handy and a good businessperson. She grew berries, vegetables, and other fruit and would put the food away for the winter. They had a horse and wagon and sold the excess food in the market. They had chickens and would make schmaltz<sup>31</sup> for the holidays. They also sold schnapps.<sup>32</sup>*

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<sup>31</sup> Schmaltz is Yiddish for rendered (clarified) chicken or goose fat used for frying or as a spread on bread.

<sup>32</sup> Schnapps is any strong, dry spirit.



Wine wagon probably containing kosher wine (Yiddishland)  
Mordechai and Frumah Garbus sold shnaps

*Zayde and Bubbe were religious people, especially Frumah. They were very good people.*

*In 1937, there were anti-Semitic pogroms. Zayde had a lot of land that the Poles wanted. The family decided to move to Pinsk. Zayde built new homes there for the family when they moved.*

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **Leonard Jewler recounting Minnie (Garbus) Lutsky on Eliezer Matesky**

*When I was a child, Bubbe [Minnie Lutsky] told me about her maternal grandfather, Eliezer Matesky, after whom I am named. She said that he was the only person in the village who was able to read and write Russian. When villagers would receive a letter, they would bring it to Eliezer for translation. When they needed correspondence written, they would request his help. Though they were disdainful of Jews, they respected Eliezer and his gift to the town.*

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **Esther Jewler recounting Minnie Lutsky on being Jewish**

*Bubbe [Minnie Garbus] always had a strong sense of being Jewish. She hated the Russians with a passion. She felt she had suffered as a child and the Jews generally suffered in Russia. She remembered the pogroms and the neighbors who were not Jewish coming into her house drunk, uninvited, spitting on the floor and waiting for the reaction of her parents. The indignity of that always stayed with her. She remembered them burning the house down in their drunkenness and they had to go stay with relatives in the bitter Russian winters. She was always an ardent Zionist at heart -- she and Zayde [Solomon Lutsky] both -- but she was more verbal about it.*

\* \* \* \* \*

### Minnie (Garbus) Lutsky on life in Czarist Russia

*One Friday night while Poppa [Mordechai Garbus] was davening [praying], a rock shattered the window and nearly hit him. A moment before he had just stepped aside "as if God had turned him." The rock had been thrown by the son of a drunk who blamed the Jews for his father's condition.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*My father was a carpenter and he built an addition to our house. He constructed a new section in the back as living quarters and converted the old front into a carpenter shop. We lived in the new section of the house.*



A Jewish carpenter from Lodz (Yiddishland)  
Mordechai Garbus and Michel Lutsky were carpenters

*A neighbor asked my father to make some window frames and doors for him. The work was nearly completed and ready for delivery. At four o'clock in the morning, my mother heard a crackling noise, and she woke Poppa. When he opened the door, he was almost thrown to the floor by the force of a fire. He slammed the door shut and with his bare fists smashed through a double-paned window. Momma and all of us children climbed out into the snow and sub-zero temperature. Poppa was overcome and had fallen unconscious. Momma then returned and saved him. We all survived and stayed with relatives for a while. During the height of the fire, some of the neighbors got together and threw snow on the barn – to save the animals. Not one of them helped us. It turned out that the neighbor had broken in during the night, stolen all the completed goods that were made for him, and set the house on fire.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*One day, a drunk came banging on the door and my father decided that rather than have all the windows broken he would open the door and let him in. The drunk said, "Give me a whiskey or I'll kill you." Poppa delayed him while Momma went to get a law enforcement officer. The officer was a big man – over 6 feet tall and he came with a stick. He said to the drunk, "You are drunk right now. Why do you want any more?" The drunk lifted his hand to hit Poppa and the policeman smashed his hand with the stick and took him away.*

\* \* \* \*

*It wasn't the nicest of days; so dark and dreary. The noonday sun was nowhere to be seen. There weren't any clouds in the sky, or maybe there was just one big cloud that appeared to cover everything. A young girl shouldn't have been out in such weather.*

*It was a good distance from my village to the Duke's castle where I worked as a seamstress. I had gone there often for the four rubles a week I received for my work. I remember walking here and there trying to avoid the mud puddles when I heard a galloping sound. Before I knew it, a great white stallion and its rider, the Duke, confronted me. The Duke took advantage of the poverty-stricken peasants and told them he would give them land in exchange for work. In return, he demanded two days a week for the rest of the worker's a life and for the rest of his children's lives. Unfortunately, too many peasants were compelled to accept this offer, so he acquired wealth enough to build an enormous castle with 117 rooms. I knew that this man was evil.*

*He stopped a moment and looked down at me from his high perch. He knew who I was – he knew that I was one of the Duchess' seamstresses. I saw a scowl forming on his face and suddenly he raged, "I know what you are and what you stand for, and I don't want any of you ever to set foot on my land again." With that, he jerked the reins of his horse so hard that I thought they would break. And then he was gone.*

*I was a young girl at the time, but I remember it well. I am sorry to say it but I felt a surge of gladness when I heard that he and his castle had been destroyed during the war.*

### *The Family of Eliyahu Matesky and Ita Shapiro*

Eliyahu and Ita Matesky had six children – three sons and three daughters. The children were born in Pinsk, Russia between 1897 and 1916. The parents and four of the children immigrated to Israel and lived in Rehovot. Two of the children, Israel and Freidel, were killed in World War II. The following table provides birth, residence, and death information on Eliyahu and Ita Matesky and their children.

*Eliyahu Matesky and Ita Shapiro and their Children  
Birth, Residence, and Death Information*

Name	Birth Date	Birth Place	Residence	Death
Eliyahu Matesky	1876	Pinsk, Russia	Rehovot, Israel	May 16, 1941
Ita Shapiro	1880	Pinsk, Russia	Tel Aviv, Israel	Unknown
Dov Matesky	Dec. 12, 1897	Pinsk, Russia	Rehovot, Israel	Dec. 7, 1982
Hayim Matesky	Feb. 24, 1903	Pinsk, Russia	Rehovot, Israel	Feb. 22, 1966
Israel Matesky	Jun. 1, 1909	Pinsk, Russia	Lithuania	Oct. 1942
Freidel Matesky	1910	Pinsk, Russia	Pinsk, Poland	Oct. 1942
Sara Lea Matesky	Feb. 3, 1912	Pinsk, Russia	Rehovot, Israel	Nov. 1, 2005
Judith Matesky	1916	Pinsk, Russia	Israel	

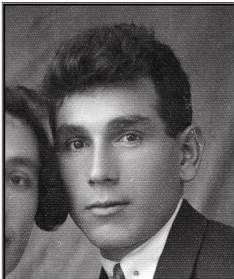


Eliyahu  
Matesky

Ita  
Shapiro



Dov  
Matesky



Hayim  
Matesky



Israel  
Matesky



Freidel  
Matesky



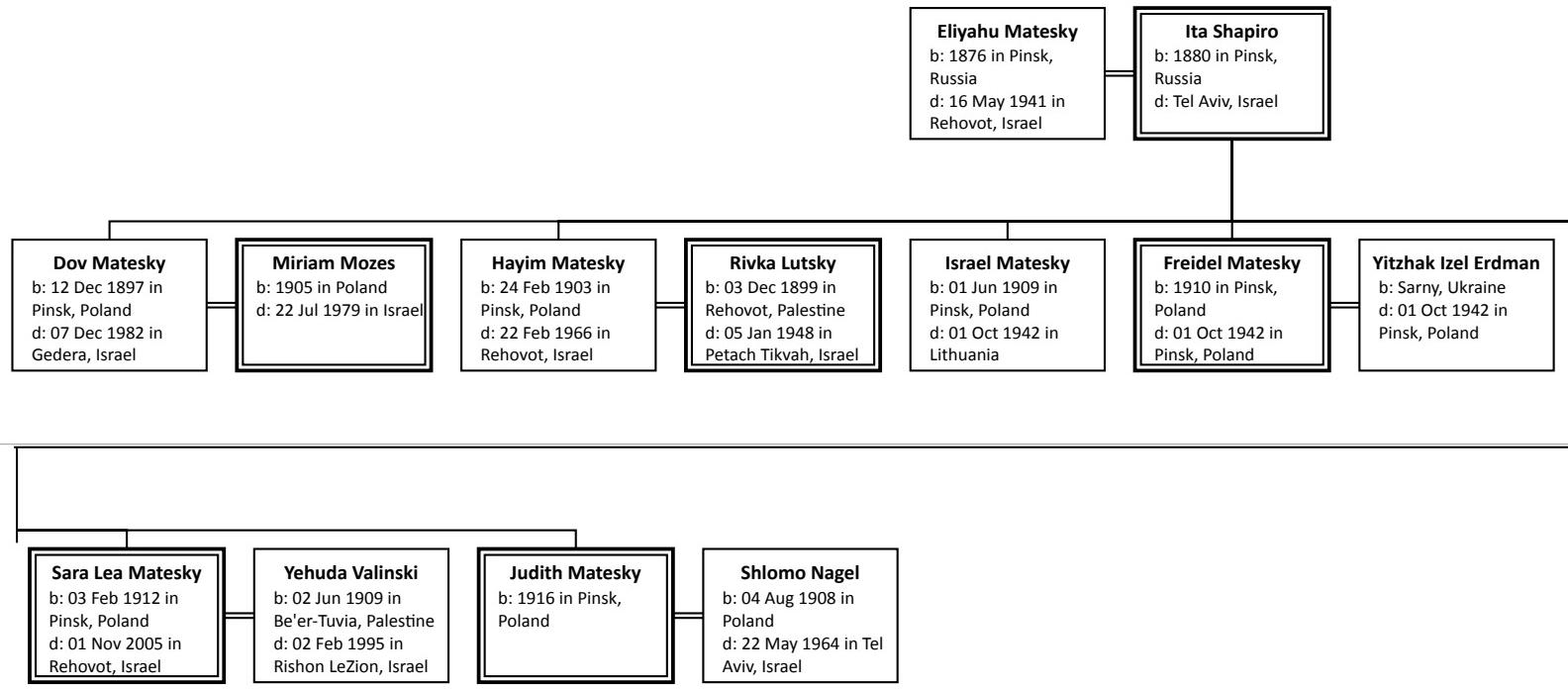
Sara  
Matesky



Judith  
Matesky

The family of Eliyahu Matesky and Ita Shapiro

**Descendant Chart for  
Eliyahu and Ita Matesky**



### Micha Netser on Matesky and Lutsky Family History in Palestine

*Eliyahu and Ita Matesky lived in Pinsk. They had six children: Dov, Hayim (my father), Freidel, Sara Lea, Yehudit and Israel. My father arrived in Eretz Israel (Palestine) in 1922. He was a carpenter and worked in Tel-Aviv and Jerusalem. He convinced his brother Dov to follow him, in 1924(?). In 1928 Hayim moved to Rehovot and married his cousin Rivka Luzki. In 1932(?) he helped his sisters Sara and Yehudit, and a year later he brought his parents. His sister Freidel, with her family, and his brother Israel stayed in Poland and were killed in the Holocaust.*



Eliyahu Matesky and Ita (Shapiro) Matesky, ca. 1920s (Micha Netser)



Pinsk fire brigade, Dov Matesky (right), 1920 (Micha Netser)



Eliyahu and Ita Matesky's family, 1922 (Micha Netser)  
From left: Hayim, Israel(?), Ita, Judith (seated), Freidel (standing), Eliyahu, unknown, Dov



Matesky and Garbus family, Rehovot, 1936 (Ruti Adar)  
From left: Eliyahu & Ita Matesky, Hana (Gornshpiez) Garbus (wife of Shmuel),  
Yehudit Matesky, Shmuel Garbus

The son of Dov Matesky, Yehuda, fought in the Israeli war of independence in 1948. He was killed in May of that year.



Yehuda Matesky (lower right), Tzefat, 1948 (Micha Netser)

## Migration from Russia

### *Mass Migration*

Though there had been periods of persecution of the Jews throughout the Czarist era, it was not until the pogroms of the early 1880s that immigration assumed significant proportions.

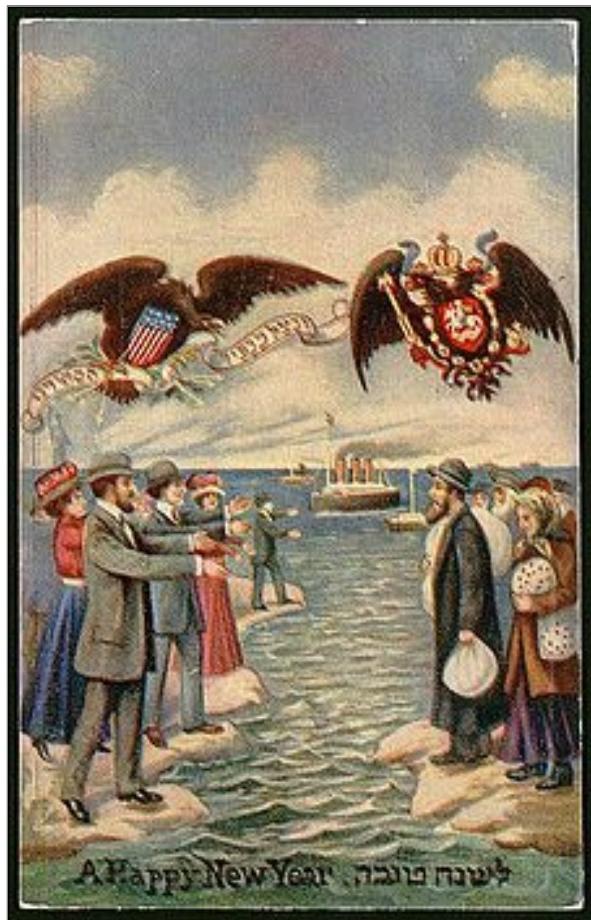
Long-standing repressive policies and attitudes towards the Jews were intensified after the assassination of Tsar Alexander II on 13 March 1881. This event was blamed on the Jews and sparked widespread Anti-Jewish pogroms in the Russian Empire, which lasted for three years, from 27 April 1881 to 1884. A hardening of official attitudes under Tsar Alexander III and his ministers resulted in the May Laws of 1882, which severely restricted the civil rights of Jews within the Russian Empire. The Tsar's minister Konstantin Petrovich Pobedonostsev stated the aim of the government with regard to the Jews was that "One third will die out, one third will leave the country and one third will be completely dissolved in the surrounding population". The pogroms and the repressive legislation did indeed result in the mass emigration of Jews to Western Europe and America. Between 1881 and the outbreak of the First World War, an estimated 2.5 million Jews left Russia - one of the largest group migrations in recorded history.<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> "Antisemitism in the Russian Empire", *Wikipedia*,  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antisemitism\\_in\\_the\\_Russian\\_Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antisemitism_in_the_Russian_Empire) (accessed October 2015)

Declassified documents from the State Archives of the Kiev Oblast provide information on the emigration of Jews from Czarist Russia at the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth centuries.<sup>34</sup>

The migration of Jews from Russia to America began in the 1870s, but between 1861 and 1871, only 314 Jews were allowed to emigrate every year. The number increased to 4,304 during the next decade. Then, in April and May 1881, a wave of pogroms swept through Southern Russian (today, Ukrainian) towns known as *shtetls*. The pogroms occurred again, although on a smaller scale, in 1882 to 1884. Panic swept the Jewish population, and it set into motion mass Jewish emigration from Russia to America. The policy of the Russian government only contributed to Jewish emigration, as Jews were the only ethnic group in the country who were confined by law to permanent residence only in a special area, which they were not allowed to leave. The area known as the "Pale" encompassed 15 provinces (of Czarist Russia) and the Polish Kingdom.



Rosh Hashanah card from early 20<sup>th</sup> Century  
Showing Russian Jews and welcoming American relatives (Wikipedia)

<sup>34</sup> State Archives of Kiev Oblast containing the documents of the Kiev Jewish Emigration Society that were declassified in 1991, <http://www.rtrfoundation.org/kiev-1.html> (accessed in October 2015)

The difficult financial position of the majority of the Jewish population in Russia caused by unemployment, low wages and the unbalanced economic situation in the settlements were other factors contributing to emigration. A group sent by the Paris Council of the Jewish Colonization Society on a fact-finding mission to Russia in 1898 said in its report on the living standards of the Jewish poor, "we visited dilapidated shacks put together with rotting planks housing two families of five to six people each, staying together in one room of nine square meters without a partition. We saw pits in Gomel where some 120 shacks of this kind are set up at surface level and are open to all the winds, where up to 2,000 live together, and sometimes one room is a bedroom, a kitchen and a shop. In Vilna, we saw basements that were two floors underground; 5,000 families, that is, 20,000 human beings, live in these lairs."

Considering these factors, it is no wonder that the Jewish exodus from Russia amassed huge proportions. Between 1881 and 1908, a total of 1,545,000 Jews left the country; the 1897 census put the number of residents at 5,189,401. Out of the million and a half émigrés, more than 1,250,000 headed to the United States, some 150,000 to England, and the remaining 145,000 went to other countries.

### *The Journey*

#### *Oral History on Escape from Czarist Russia*

##### **Esther (Lutsky) Jewler on her mother's escape from Czarist Russia**

*Only recently did I hear why she left Russia at age 16. Her brother, Nisson Garbus, tells me that the reason bubbe had to leave at age 16 was that she spoke out against the Czar and someone tattled to the authorities about what she said. Word came back to them that she was in trouble if she didn't leave, that the authorities would come for her. So she packed quickly and left for the United States*

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##### **Minnie (Garbus) Lutsky on her escape from Czarist Russia**

*Not too far from us there lived a very wealthy widower with his son and daughter-in-law. It was customary that when the head of the house died the son would inherit his fortune. This particular widower was fairly young, and he intended to re-marry shortly. The son's wife, being a greedy woman, could not wait to inherit the money, so without the son knowing it, she murdered her father-in-law and put the body in a hut used for storing surplus crops. To keep food such as potatoes from freezing, they put it in dirt mounds. She attempted to conceal the body in such a mound, but it was smaller than the others and this attracted the attention of one of the men. He began digging and soon discovered the horrible truth. There was soon a rapid influx of police officials into the area. The whole village was under surveillance.*



Minnie Lutsky, New York, ca. mid 1910s (Jewler family)

*At the time, the government required that people obtain permits for everything sold. It was very difficult to get the permits for all the various items and it was commonplace for people to sell products under-the-table. Our family sold yard goods without a permit. It is evident that someone betrayed us, for one day one of the inspectors on the murder case came to our house to investigate illegal sales. He discovered the yard goods in a closet. My parents had previously warned me to take the blame if we were discovered, since minors had a chance to escape punishment. Conviction for my parents could mean deportation from the area – possibly to Siberia. It was my duty to speak up. Many people who had been similarly exposed had had trials arranged and hundreds were defended by one lawyer.*

*At that moment I realized that there was no future for me in Russia. I needed to get out. It was clear that I could not get a passport with a trial pending, so my family got together a sum of money and paid an agent who smuggled people out of the country. I escaped in 1913 when I was 16 years old. I was with a group that traveled at night in covered wagons and by day slept on straw in barns awaiting the protection of darkness. The itinerary went from Russia to Poland to Germany. Soldiers at the border were bribed. They put their coats on the ground so that revealing footprints would not be made. We eventually arrived at Hamburg, Germany where we boarded a steamer for New York.*

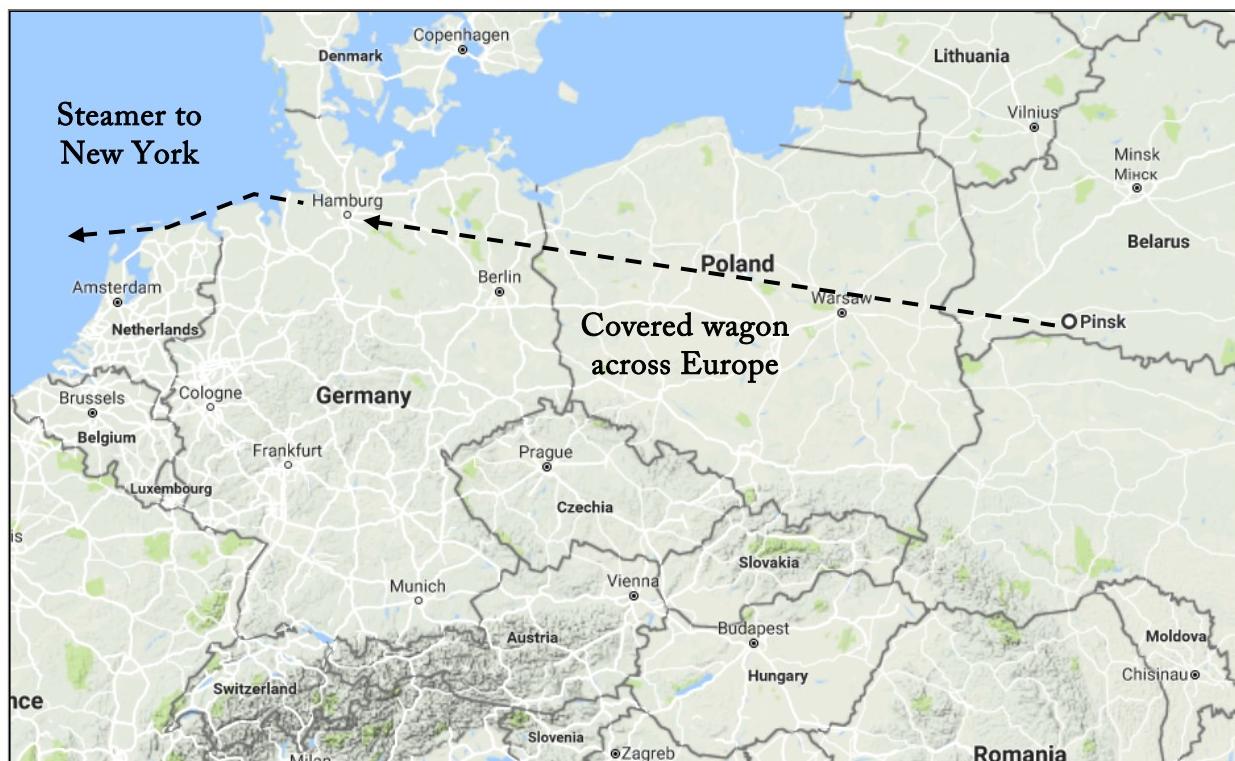
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#### **Esther Jewler on Minnie Garbus escape from Russia**

*She left Russia. She said they had to cross the borders in secret at night and bribe their way with the guards until they could get across to where their destination was to leave for the United States. I'm not sure where that was, whether it was Germany or elsewhere. She did not talk about that, but she did talk about how sick she was on the way over.*

Esther stated that Minnie fled Russia with her cousin, Ida Gordon, who was fourteen years old, two years her junior. Minnie carried the luggage and Ida carried the food. As they were crossing a stream, Ida dropped her precious cargo in the water and ruined it. Their journey became even more difficult with no provisions, but they made it to Hamburg and then to New York. The following map indicates a possible route that Minnie may have traveled on her 767-mile journey across Europe from Stoshany (in modern Belarus) to Hamburg, Germany.

Minnie stated that they “traveled at night in covered wagons” and also on foot. To avoid detection, the group would have avoided common routes and traveled over rough terrain. If we assume the wagon and walking speed was 4 miles per hour and the group traveled six hours per night, they would have covered 24 miles a day. At that rate, it would have taken the group four and a half weeks to complete the journey across Europe. Minnie stated that her trip across the Atlantic Ocean (a distance of 5,000 miles) took nine days. Thus, overall, Minnie’s journey from Stoshany to New York, spanning nearly 6,000 miles, required approximately six weeks of travel.



Estimated Route of Minnie Garbus across Europe in 1913

Illegal exits from Czarist Russia were risky. Individuals needed to be prepared to bribe police, soldiers, and border guards at each step. There was always the danger of murder, robbery, and rape. Most of those who fled traversed the long miles on foot. The treks often involved swimming across rivers at borders, and inevitably involved dealing with patrols who profited from the plight of the refugees.

In 1903, steerage from Bremen, Germany to New York was \$33.50. It is estimated that the cost of getting to a port city, along with the cost of crossing borders and paying off officials was perhaps half again as much [approximately \$17. Thus, the total cost of travel from Czarist Russia to the port city followed by steerage on a steamship was approximately \$50.]<sup>35</sup>

<sup>35</sup> Howe, Irving, *World of Our Fathers*, New York, 1976



Minnie Lutsky, New York, ca. mid 1910s (Jewler family)

### *On Board Ship*

The American Park Network describes immigrant ship travel during this period.<sup>36</sup>

There were three types of accommodations on the ships that brought immigrants to America: first class, second class and steerage. Only steerage passengers were processed at Ellis Island. First- and second-class passengers were quickly and courteously “inspected” onboard the ship before being transferred to New York.

Steerage was enormously profitable for steamship companies. Even though the average cost of a ticket was only \$30, larger ships could hold from 1,500 to 2,000 immigrants, netting a profit of \$45,000 to \$60,000 for a single, one-way voyage. The cost to feed a single immigrant was only about 60 cents a day!

For most immigrants, especially early arrivals, the experience of steerage was like a nightmare (at one time, the average passenger mortality rate was ten percent per voyage). The conditions were so crowded, so dismally dark, so unsanitary and so foul-smelling, that they were the single most important cause of America’s early immigration laws. Unfortunately, the laws were almost impossible to enforce and steerage conditions remained deplorable.

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<sup>36</sup> “The Immigrant Journey”, *American Park Network*, <http://www.ohranger.com/ellis-island/immigration-journey> (accessed October 2015)



Immigrants aboard the S.S. Westernland, 1901 (Getty Images)

Further information on the ship transport is excerpted from *Ellis Island History*.<sup>37</sup>.

The steerage crossing from Bremen, Germany to New York in 1903 lasted approximately two weeks. (The crossing time varied depending on the boat, the weather, and the conditions at sea.) Men and women were separated in two large rooms that were stacked with bunks. The bunks, made of wood, were narrow and short, and were arranged in tiers about two feet apart. Often, there were no mattresses, blankets, or sheets. The passenger's sack of belongings became their pillow. One toilet served up to 500 people and permission to go above deck was granted at the discretion of the ship's officers.

Since most of the steerage passengers had never experienced ocean travel, seasickness was common, and sanitation was in the hands of the passengers. Generally, food was available though not very appealing. A typical ration consisted of bread, butter, salted herring, cake, and potatoes in their skin. Many, however, were reluctant to eat the food since they suspected, rightfully, that it was not kosher.

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<sup>37</sup> "Ellis Island History", <http://www.ellisisland.com/indexHistory.html> (accessed September 2015)



Immigrants in hold of Atlantic ship, 1906 (Library of Congress)

The New York harbor was often filled with steamships loaded with up to twenty thousand passengers waiting processing at Ellis Island. Sometimes the passengers had to wait in steerage for days extending their already arduous journey. The immigrants were then loaded onto crowded ferries that were chartered by the steamship companies to provide transport to Ellis Island. The ferries were not much more than open-air barges that were subject to the elements and lacked toilet facilities and lifesaving equipment. They were considered adequate for short rides but on busy days immigrants could be trapped on these vessels for hours waiting their turn to land at Ellis Island.

#### *Oral History on the Journey*

##### **Esther Lutsky Jewler on Minnie Garbus Lutsky crossing the Atlantic Ocean**

*Bubbe [Minnie Lutsky] came over in steerage, a horrible trip that took, what seemed to her, forever. At the moment I don't know how long it took, but it was a long time and she was sick the whole way.*

##### **Minnie Garbus Lutsky on crossing the Atlantic Ocean**

*The trip to New York lasted nine days. Cattle traveled better than we did. There were two cabins with fifty people in each, the men in one and the women and children in the other. There was much seasickness, what with the narrow double-decker bunks and the absence of pillows and mattresses. The only blankets were those that we brought ourselves. The coffee, cereal, and soup were served on the deck from trashcans.*

\* \* \* \* \*

Information on the ship transport is excerpted from *Ellis Island History*.<sup>38</sup>

In 1903, the steerage crossing from Bremen, Germany to New York lasted approximately two weeks. (The crossing time varied depending on the boat, the weather, and the conditions at sea. Minnie stated that her trip lasted nine days.) There were approximately two thousand steerage passengers on most boats. (They were located in the “steerage” area of the ship – the lowest decks where the steering controls and engines were located.) Men and women were separated in two large rooms that were stacked with bunks. The bunks, made of wood, were narrow and short, and were arranged in tiers about two feet apart. Often, there were no mattresses, blankets, or sheets. The passenger’s sack of belongings became their pillow. One toilet served up to 500 people and permission to go above deck was granted at the discretion of the ship’s officers.

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#### *Arrival in the United States*

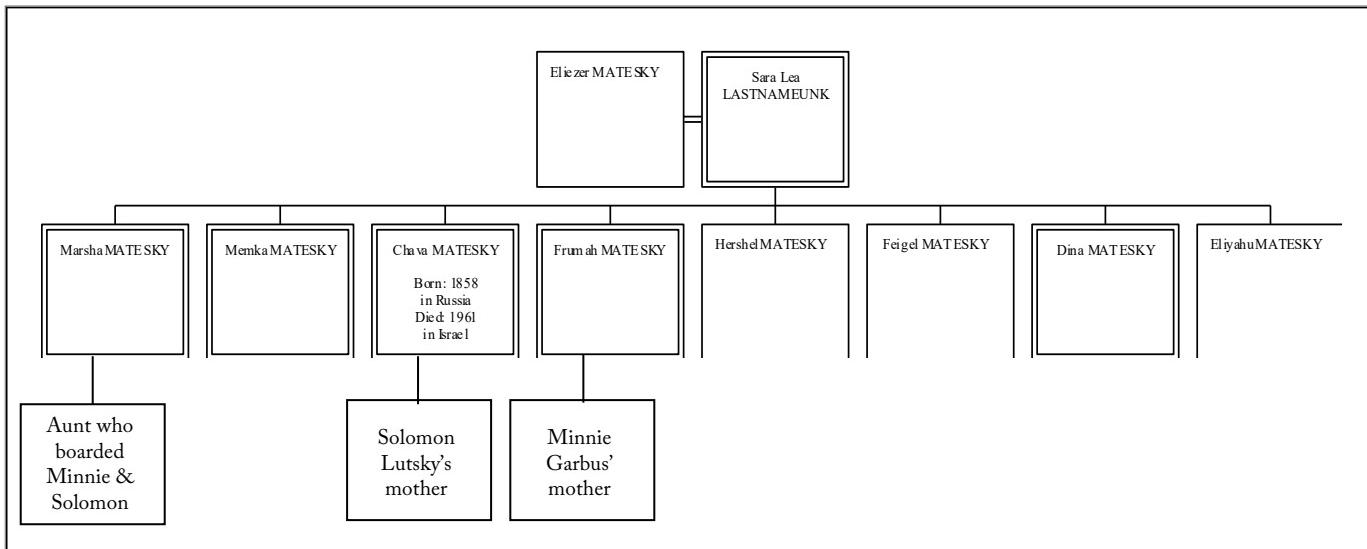
##### **Esther Lutsky Jewler on Minnie Garbus Lutsky arrival in the U.S.**

*She [Minnie Garbus] moved in with her aunt Masha Pilchick. That’s where she met Zayde [Solomon Lutsky].*

Minnie Garbus and Solomon Lutsky were first cousins. Minnie’s mother, Frumah (Matesky) Garbus, and Solomon’s mother, Chava (Matesky) Lutsky, were sisters. At that time, it was not extraordinary for first cousins to marry. When Minnie and Solomon arrived in the United States, they each sought out their common aunt, Masha (Matesky) Pilchick, who was a sister of both of their mothers. Minnie and Solomon met while living at Aunt Masha’s apartment on the Lower East Side. (Aunt Masha was also known as Marsha.) The Matesky family relations are shown in the following family tree.

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<sup>38</sup> From Ellis Island History, <http://www.ellisisland.com/indexHistory.html> (accessed 2002)



Matesky family relations

### Esther Lutsky Jewler on visit to lower east side of New York

*I remember going to see Aunt Masha on the Lower East Side of New York – pretty terrible neighborhoods where there was one bathroom in the hall outside and all the families on the floor used one bathroom. They stood lined up in the morning and lined up at night. Very miserable conditions.*



Minnie (Garbus) Lutsky (age 19), 1917

Between 1900 and 1910 more than eight million immigrants came to the United States, most of them from Eastern Europe and many of them Jewish. By 1906, nearly 90,000 Jews were arriving in New York City every year, most of them from Russia and Poland. By 1915, there were nearly 1.5 million Jews in the city, representing 28 percent of its population. At this time, New York was the largest Jewish and Yiddish-speaking city on earth.



Essex & Hester Street, Lower East Side of New York, Early 20th C. (Yiddishland)

As Jewish immigrants continued to arrive on the Lower East Side the environment became more tightly compressed. The narrow streets contained not only tenements but synagogues, factories, warehouses, and shops. By the turn of the century, there were more than 700 inhabitants per acre, a density that exceeded that of Bombay.

*[Esther Jewler continuing] Bubbe [Mini Lutsky] came to this country September 13, 1913. Zayde came two years earlier. That was her beginning in this country.*

#### *Esther Jewler on Solomon Lutsky's Journey to America*

Solomon Lutsky and his brothers left Palestine and came to the United States in search of greater opportunity. Sol joined the merchant marine and in 1911, at the age of 25, he jumped overboard when his ship docked in Boston. He was assisted by a stranger in locating his brother Bernard Lutsky, and Aunt Masha (Matesky) Pilchik, who lived in New York City.

*He and his brothers came to America one by one. Zayde became a seaman and jumped ship in Boston. He came in illegally to this country and settled in New York where his brothers were living. He went to a preparatory school to learn English and learn how to write and became a carpenter. Eventually he bought his own business, which was a hardware store, and then he bought another business in Borough Park. And those are my earliest memories of his having a hardware store on Fort Hamilton Parkway in Borough Park.*

#### **Minnie (Garbus) Lutsky on Solomon Lutsky's travel to the U.S.**

*Poppa [Solomon Lutsky] was born in Palestine, which was under Turkish control at the time. His parents saw no future for him there, so he traveled and worked his way to France. When he expressed a desire to go to America, friends advised him to join the merchant marine. He did that and journeyed all over Europe. Eventually he worked on a boat that was bound for Boston. When it reached port, he dumped all of his belongings overboard to remove all traces of himself and jumped ship. The date was July 4, 1911 – Poppa's day of independence.*

*Poppa walked until he came to the business section of the city and went to a bank to exchange his French francs for American dollars. Pop spoke several languages at the time – Hebrew, German, Arabic, and French – but not English. He tried to speak to the teller in French, but he was not understood. By a stroke of luck, a man waiting in line understood what he was trying to say and explained it to the teller. The man, who was Jewish, then asked, “Where are you going, what are you planning to do, and what can I do for you?” Poppa told him that he wanted to get to New York to see his brother. The man then invited him to his mother’s house, where they gave him a meal and invited him to rest. At 12:00, they took him to the train station and assisted him in boarding a train bound for New York.*

*The next morning in New York, Poppa went to a policeman, who happened to be Jewish, and sought help in finding his brother Bernard’s address. Bernard lived on Avenue A, which in French is pronounced “ah.” The policeman understood, gave him the assistance, and Poppa found his brother.*



Solomon Lutsky, ca. 1910s (Jewler family)

*Zayde [Solomon Lutsky] talked periodically about his life in Palestine. His one wish was to go back and see his country. It never happened. Toward the end when he finally decided to make arrangements to go back, he got sick and was never able to make the trip back. His mother, at age 103, died the year before he did. That was 1962 when Zayde passed away.*

#### *Minnie's Early Years in New York*

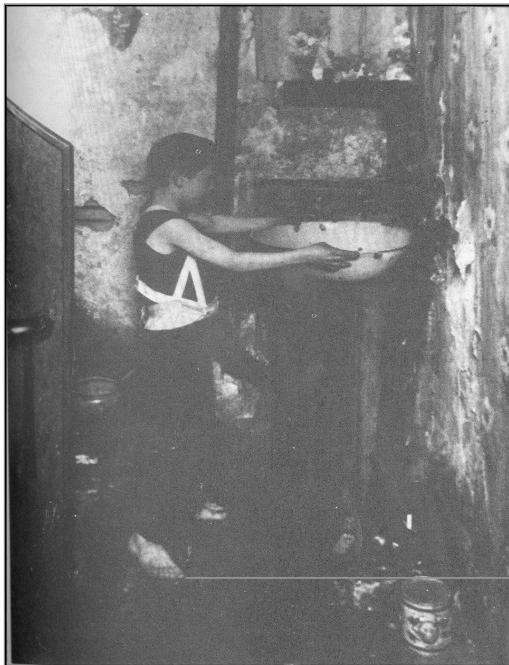
*[Esther Jewler continues] She lived with an aunt who had a great love for money. Bubbe lived in the kitchen; she slept in the kitchen on the floor of this aunt’s house on the Lower East Side because all the bedrooms were taken by male boarders.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Minnie Lutsky continues] Ten fellow immigrants lived in a small flat with no hot water, bathtub, or electric lights.*

Most immigrants to New York made their homes in five-story tenements. A reporter at the time, Jacob Riis, described the standard dumbbell tenement construction:<sup>39</sup>

It cannot be well ventilated; it cannot be well lighted; it is not safe in case of fire. It is built on a lot 25 feet wide by 100 or less in depth, with apartments for four families in each story. The stairway in the center of the house reduces the width of the middle rooms to nine feet each. Direct light is only possible for the rooms at the front or rear. The middle rooms must borrow what light they can from the dark hallways and rear rooms. Their air must pass through other rooms. A five-story house of this character contains apartments for 18 to 20 families, a population frequently amounting to 100 people, and sometimes increased by boarders and lodgers to 150 or more.



Communal faucet in tenement hall, 1910 (World of Our Fathers)

[Esther Jewler continues] *She made her way through the factories of New York in the sweatshops. When her job required her to work on Shabbas, she refused and consequently lost the job. In one particular case she was making baby dresses. When you finished the dress, you were to drop it in a basket. It was called piecework. When the boss came by one day and picked up one of the dresses she had finished, he looked at it and shook his head. So she said, "Not good?" He said, "Too good." Meaning that she was doing too good a job for factory work.*

\* \* \* \* \*

[Minnie Lutsky continues] *I worked in sweatshops for two dollars a week where they drained my blood for nothing.*

For Jewish immigrants, tailoring was the most popular field in which to work. (Jews today speak of their immigrant grandparents who worked in *shmatte*s – Yiddish for “rags”.) Many engaged in “piecework” and were paid according to the number of pieces they completed rather than with a regular wage. Women, more than men, worked in the sweatshops – dank, overcrowded factories. A typical workweek consisted of nine and a half hours a day, six days a week, for approximately \$15.

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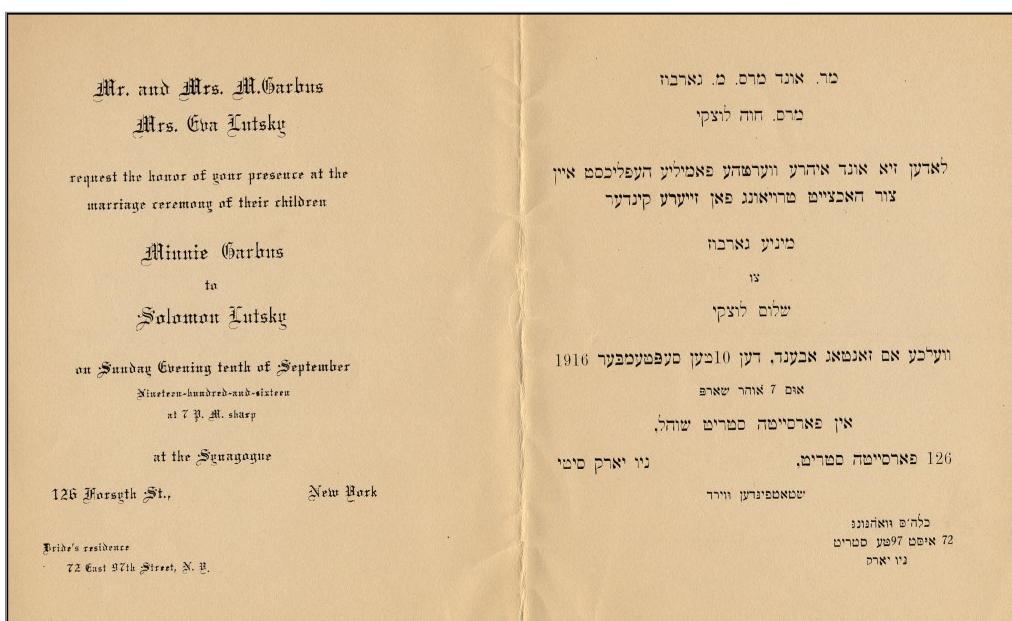
<sup>39</sup> Irving Howe, *World of Our Fathers*, New York, 1976



Workers in garment shop (World of Our Fathers)

[Esther Jewler continues] Eventually she met Zayde, who happened to live in the same aunt's house. They were first cousins, and they married on September 10, 1916. My older sister Lilly was born a year later. They lived in a walkup on East 96th Street in Manhattan.

The invitation to Solomon and Minnie's wedding is below. It is structured with one side in English and the other in Yiddish. The invitation was addressed from Mr. and Mrs. M. (Mordechai) Garbus and Mrs. Eva (Chava on the Yiddish side) Lutsky. Though the parents issued the invitation, they could not afford to come to the wedding in New York City. (Mordechai and Frumah Garbus were in Russia and Chava Lutsky was in Palestine. Solomon's father, Michel Lutsky, had died.) The wedding was held at a synagogue on 126 Forsyth Street in New York. It is indicated that the "bride's residence" was 72 East 97th Street in New York.



Invitation to Solomon and Minnie Lutsky's wedding, New York, September 10, 1916 (Jewler family)

Solomon and Minnie were married at the Forsyth Street Synagogue. The immigrant group that founded the synagogue originated in the shtetl of Illiya, near Minsk, Belarus.<sup>40</sup> The building was designed in 1890 by one of America's foremost architects, J. Cleveland Cady. The building is now the site of the Delancey Seventh Day Adventist Church. In September 2017, 101 years after my grandparents wedding there, I visited the building with my family and was given a tour.



Interior of former Forsyth Street Synagogue, New York, 2017 (Leonard Jewler)



Solomon and Minnie Lutsky wedding photograph, New York, Sep. 10, 1916 (Jewler family)

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<sup>40</sup> Gerard Wolfe, *The Synagogues of the Lower East Side*, Nov. 1 2012

## The Matesky Family and the Holocaust

While we have seen that the bulk of family members emigrated to the United States or Israel from the 1880s through the 1910s, some family remained in their ancestral homes in Poland. Unfortunately, most of those who lived in Poland during the war did not survive. The Germans and their Polish and Ukrainian collaborators killed them during the war because they were Jews. They were swept up in the Nazi campaign of extermination.

It is difficult to know with certainty all of those family members who were killed. However, information provided in discussion with Micha Netser, Esther Jewler, and Lea Dolvopiat has resulted in the identification of the family members who were killed in the holocaust. Most of the deaths have been confirmed through locating their Page of Testimony on the Yad Vashem database of Shoah Victims.<sup>41</sup> A total of 29 individuals were killed in the holocaust who were known family members. Of these, 27 were civilians and 2 were serving in the Polish army. Four Matesky family lines lost members.

- Matesky-Garbus: 17 people
- Matesky-Sanderowitz: 2 people
- Matesky-Klitnick: 5 people
- Matesky-Shapiro: 5 people

During this time, there were two family members who survived the war though, tragically, the rest of their families were killed.

- Nisson Garbus joined the Polish cavalry during the war, was captured by the Russian army, and was sent to Siberia. He survived and settled in Israel.
- Leah Dolvopiat was transported to Siberia during the war and returned to find that her parents had been killed. She met her future husband at a displaced persons camp and settled in New York.

The stories are told of those family members who were killed and those who survived. My goal is to provide a human face to the individuals who were brutally killed and to share the dramatic stories of those who survived.

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<sup>41</sup> The Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names, Yad Vashem, <https://yvng.yadvashem.org> (accessed April 2018)

Matesky Family Holocaust Victims by Family Line

	Matesky-Garbus	Matesky-Sanderowitz	Matesky-Klitnick	Matesky-Shapiro	Total
Civilians killed in Pinsk	Frumah Matesky & Mordechai Garbus Itka Garbus & Moshe Dolvopiat Chava Garbus & David Gotlib Golda Garbus & Shmuel & children Esther & Susan Judith Males (wife of Nisson Garbus) & children Chaim, Leizer & Miriam Esther Michalshtein (wife of Itzik Garbus)	Feiga Matesky & Mr. Sanderowitz	Dina Matesky & Yehuda Klitnik & children Chana, Isaac, & Hershel	Freidel Matesky & Yitzhak Erdman & children Eliezer & Gitel	<b>26</b>
Civilians killed away from Pinsk				Israel Matesky	<b>1</b>
Soldiers killed	Israel Garbus Itzik Garbus				<b>2</b>
Total	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>29</b>

## *History of the Holocaust in Western Ukraine*

### **Pinsk region within conflict zone**

The Pinsk region was located in the midst of what has been termed “the bloodlands” by Timothy Snider in his book, *Bloodlands, Europe Between Hitler and Stalin*. These are defined as “territories subject to both German and Soviet police power and associated mass killing policies at some point between 1933 and 1945. These areas correspond closely to the places where the Germans killed Jews between 1941 and 1945.” During this period, the two governments killed an estimated fourteen million civilians and prisoners of war including 5.4 million Jews gassed or shot by the Germans, 4.2 million Soviet citizens starved by the German occupiers, 3.3 million Ukrainians starved by their government, and additional hundreds of thousands of other victims. These deaths are separate from those of soldiers who died in combat operations. During these years, the Pinsk area was in a zone of death that was perpetrated by murderous regimes to the west and the east. Few who lived there would survive the war.

In August 1939, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union signed a non-aggression pact, which divided the territories of Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Finland, and Romania, into German and Soviet "spheres of influence". It was known as the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact after the two foreign ministers who signed the agreement, and the boundary line was similarly named. The following month, Germany invaded Poland from the west and the Soviet Union invaded Poland from the east. Poland was quickly occupied by the two invading powers.

In June 1941, Germany crossed the Molotov-Ribbentrop Line and invaded the Soviet Union with a huge lightning strike and quickly advanced east into Soviet territory. The line took on another meaning after the German invasion. “To its west, Germans were holding Jews in ghettos; to its east, Germans began to shoot Jews in very large numbers. The Holocaust began east of the Molotov-Ribbentrop line with shooting actions, and then shifted west of the line, where most victims were gassed.”<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>42</sup> Timothy Snider, *Bloodlands* (Basic Books, 2010), p. 410



The Bloodlands with Molotov-Ribbentrop Line, Aug. 1941 (Bloodlands)

In the Bloodlands map, the Pinsk area was located east of the line, in southwestern Belarusian SSR, and just north of the border with Ukrainian SSR. Between World War I and II, this region was located in eastern Poland. During World War II, the residents of this region suffered three rounds of occupation by murderous regimes: first Soviet, then German, and finally Soviet. After the German invasion, the Germans established administrative regions in the occupied territories and Pinsk was included in the Ukrainian region known as Reichskommissariate Ukraine. [This will be discussed in further detail later.]

#### Mass murder after German invasion in 1941

The Germans began killing the Jews of western Ukraine (previously eastern Poland) soon after their occupation. A summary of that history is provided based on the cited sources.<sup>434445</sup>

Ukraine was a major site of the implementation of Nazi Germany's genocidal policies toward the European Jews during the Second World War. When Germany invaded the USSR in June 1941, the Ukrainian SSR, including the newly annexed territories of eastern Galicia and western Volhynia, had a Jewish population of 2.3 million people. Two out of three of Ukraine's Jews—between 1.4 and 1.5 million men, women, and children—were brutally murdered during the subsequent eighteen months.

<sup>43</sup> "The Holocaust", *Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, <http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/display.asp?linkpath=pages%5CH%5CO%5CHolocaust.htm> (accessed April 2017)

<sup>44</sup> "History of the Jews of Volhyn, The Holocaust", *Encyclopedia of Jewish Communities, Poland (Volume V)*, JewishGen, [http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/pinkas\\_poland/pol5\\_00003.html](http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/pinkas_poland/pol5_00003.html) (accessed April 2017)

<sup>45</sup> Timothy Snider, *Bloodlands*, p. 220-221

From the first days of the Nazi occupation of Ukraine, the Third Reich's military and police apparatus increasingly persecuted and murdered Jews, as it did in Poland, Russia, Belarus, and elsewhere in Nazi-occupied Europe. The overall background to the Nazis' plans indicates that violence on a broad scale against the Soviet population, and especially against the Jews, had been foreseen. Most inhabitants of the occupied Soviet cities—where most Jews lived—would not be supplied with food. The Nazis calculated that many millions would starve if they were unable to flee.

During July 1941, the SS and German police apparatus were installed throughout the Ukrainian territories occupied by the Third Reich. The central units under their command included Einsatzgruppe C, which was active in western and later in northern Ukraine; and Einsatzgruppe D, which was responsible for the mass killings in southern Ukraine.<sup>46</sup>



Routes of Einsatzgruppen Killing Units, 1941 to 1943 (Yad Vashem)

From late autumn 1941 the RKU (Reichskommissariat Ukraine) administration began creating ghettos in the western half of Ukraine. The actual form of those ghettos varied greatly. Sometimes they consisted of a few fenced-off buildings; and sometimes all the Jews in a town were forcibly moved into a small quarter with a minimal infrastructure that was declared a ghetto but not fenced in or even guarded. Inside the ghettos, nutrition and medical care were insufficient, and those Jews who did not have access to the black market or did not receive assistance from relatives were highly endangered. In each town with a large Jewish community, the creation of a *Judenrat* (Jewish Council) was made compulsory to ensure that the German orders were followed, that provisions were "purchased" from them, and distributed by them.

<sup>46</sup> The Einsatzgruppen accompanied the Wehrmacht combat units in their eastern invasion. Their mission was the complete liquidation of all Jews in the conquered territories.



Lvov Ghetto in Western Ukraine, 1942 (Wikipedia)

In contrast to the community leadership that concerned itself with religious and social matters, the *Judenrat* was forced to deal with things that were usually the responsibility of the city administration such as sanitation, drainage, health, keeping order, nutrition, collecting fees and supplying forced laborers. The worst task for them was to provide the Germans with young people who were murdered after completing their work. This is what happened to young people sent to Kiev or Vinnitsa to construct the Fuehrer's headquarters. The actual responsibility for carrying out orders was placed on the Jewish police, who for the most part were recruited from among the area's young people but also from among the refugees.

Killing became extermination last in the lands that the Germans took first. Though the Germans had overrun all of the former lands of eastern Poland in the first ten days of the war, in June 1941, many of the native Jews of Poland's southeast, now the west of the Reichskommissariat Ukraine, had survived until 1942. German forces had already passed through by the time Himmler began to order the destruction of whole Jewish communities. By the time German policy had shifted, most German forces had already departed. In 1942 the Germans undertook a second round of mass shootings in the western districts of the Reichskommissariat Ukraine, this time organized by the civilian authorities and implemented by the police, with help from local auxiliary policemen.

The first mass killings of Jewish women and children were committed by the First SS Brigade in July 1941 in Volhynia. Over the next year, a number of German acts of mass murder were perpetrated in Ukraine. The most apocalyptic period began in July 1942 when approximately 600,000 Jews were still alive in Ukraine. Most of them fell victim to the murder campaign that took place between July and November 1942. Almost every day German police, aided by Ukrainian auxiliary policemen, killed thousands of Jews. In Volhynia and Podolia nearly all ghettos were annihilated. The biggest massacres occurred in Volhynia in August, September, and October of 1942.

The annihilation of the Jews of Volhynia was conducted by the head office of Security Police of Volhynia-Podolia in cooperation with the German civilian government. It was carried out by special units of Security Police recruited from district offices [Gebiete]. They were assisted by the mobile units of the German police and Ukrainian auxiliary police in hunting down Jews and sealing the ghettos. Officials of the regional commissars [Gebietskommissare] coordinated the preparations, provided transportation and participated in listing the confiscated valuables. They also collected and sorted the clothing and possessions of those murdered, sending a portion to Germany and distributing the rest among local residents. When the number of security forces assigned to them was not adequate, the Security Service was given home-front army units to help. It was the members of the Security Police who shot and murdered Jews at the death pits.

Between July 13 and October 13, 1942, forty-four ghettos were liquidated in Volhynia. Most required one or two days. On some days, two or three ghettos were liquidated. A brief summary of the killing of the Jews of Pinsk is provided.<sup>47</sup>

During the Red Army's rapid retreat, on August 5 to 7, 1941 the Waffen SS massacred as many as 11,000 Jewish men of Pinsk aged 16 to 60. Their bodies were dumped in hastily constructed mass graves. The subsequent creation of the ghetto was followed – over a year later – by the total eradication of the imprisoned Jewish population of Pinsk, totaling 26,000 victims: men, women and children. Most killings took place between October 29 and November 1 1942, with the aid of Belarusian Auxiliary Police led by the SS-Ordnungspolizei. It was the second largest mass shooting operation in a single settlement to that particular date during the Holocaust, after Babi Yar where the death toll exceeded 33,000 Jews.

Between July and October 1942, approximately 150,000 Jews comprising about 80% of those confined in ghettos perished. Several thousand vital workers were kept alive temporarily. Of them, about 2,000 were murdered in November-December 1942 and 1,500 in the first half of 1943. Thus, the end came to Jewish life in Volhynia. The only survivors were those in the forests and those in hiding.

### **Resistance to the Germans**

Resistance to the Germans was both individual and collective. Organized rebellion in the form of partisan warfare will be discussed later. Individual resistance was generally spontaneous and improvised.

It took various forms, some passive, such as refusal to obey orders and speaking out against the persecutors, and some violent, such as attacking policemen. Refusal to obey orders, generally at the very edge of the burial pit, was expressed in the refusal to undress or to turn over valuables, or in the destruction of banknotes. Sometimes those who refused to undress also spat in the policemen's faces and slapped them. Sometimes they simply made short speeches. The survivors of the murder in Kovel report that a teacher spoke out, saying:

*Murderers, our miserable blood will not keep silent. You will lose the war. There are enough Jews to revenge our blood. Woe to Jews who have forgotten how to take revenge. For the blood of their brothers and their faith. Revenge!*

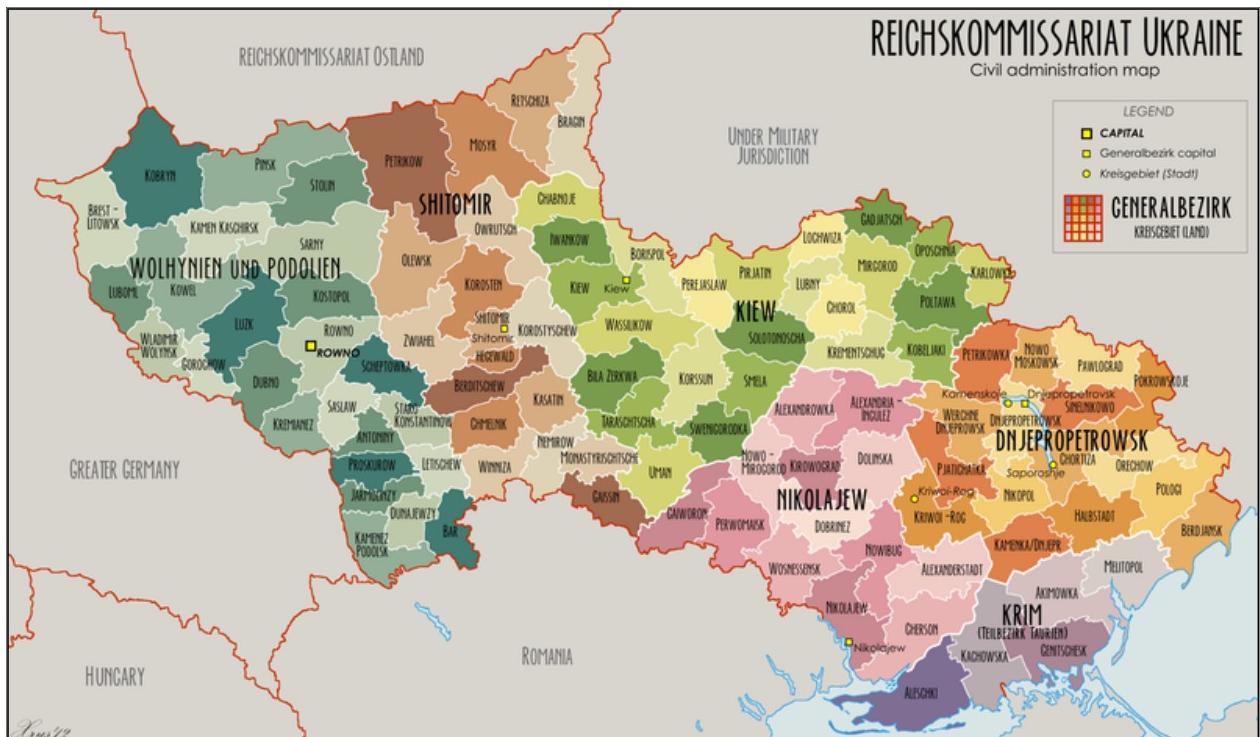
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<sup>47</sup> Pinsk Ghetto, Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pińsk\\_Ghetto](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pińsk_Ghetto) (accessed April 2018)

These manifestations of rebellion were a natural human reaction to humiliation and murder. These were expressions of individual pride, of human dignity, and of the will to live. We have knowledge of only a small number of these acts, but in light of the wide variety of those responses and their broad geographic distribution, it is likely that this was a relatively widespread phenomenon.<sup>48</sup>

### German Organization for Final Solution in Ukraine

During World War II, Reichskommissariat Ukraine (abbreviated as RKU) was the civilian occupation regime of much of German-occupied Ukraine. (This included adjacent areas of modern Belarus and pre-war Poland. Importantly, it included the Pinsk area.) Between September 1941 and March 1944, the Reichskommissariat was administered by Reichskommissar Erich Koch. The administration's tasks included the pacification of the region and the exploitation, for German benefit, of its resources and people. There were six Generalbezirke (general districts), called Generalkommissariate (general commissariats). The Volhynia and Podolia District, located in the western region, was headed by SA Obergruppenführer Heinrich Schöne.<sup>49</sup> Each general district was divided into several Kreisgebiete "circular [i.e., district] area" which was led by a "Gebietskommissar".<sup>50</sup> The Pinsk Kreisgebiete was located within the Volhynia and Podolia District.



German administrative map of occupied Ukraine, Sep. 1942 (Wikipedia)

<sup>48</sup> Shmuel Spector, "The Jews of Volhynia and their Reaction to Extermination", Yad Vashem

<sup>49</sup> The "SA" was the storm troopers or "brown shirts" unit within the Nazi party.

<sup>50</sup> Adapted from "Reichskommissariat Ukraine" Wikipedia, (accessed April 2017).

The Nazi chain of command that was responsible for the mass murder of the Jews in German-occupied territory in general, and in Ukraine and Volhynia in particular consisted of Heinrich Himmler, who was Reichsführer of the SS and had overall responsibility for the killing of Jews and other victims; Eric Koch, who was Reichskommissar of Ukraine and controlled the Gestapo and uniformed police; and Heinrich Schoene, who was General Commissioner for the Volhynia-Podolia District and was responsible for the murder of the Jewish population there.

**Heinrich Himmler** was Reichsführer of the Schutzstaffel (Protection Squadron; SS), and a leading member of the Nazi Party (NSDAP) of Germany. Himmler was one of the most powerful men in Nazi Germany and one of the people most directly responsible for the Holocaust. On Hitler's behalf, Himmler formed the Einsatzgruppen and built extermination camps. As overseer of the concentration camps, Himmler directed the killing of some six million Jews, between 200,000 and 500,000 Romani people, and other victims. Himmler was a main architect of the Holocaust, using his deep belief in the racist Nazi ideology to justify the murder of millions of victims. The Nazis planned to kill Polish intellectuals and restrict non-Germans in the General Government and conquered territories to a fourth-grade education.



Heinrich Himmler

In 1943, Himmler gave a speech to top SS officials, which included the following quote: "I am now referring to the evacuation of the Jews, to the extermination of the Jewish People. This is something that is easily said: 'The Jewish People will be exterminated', says every party member, 'this is very obvious, it is in our program—elimination of the Jews, extermination, a small matter.'"

At the end of the war, despite having repeatedly assured his SS officers that he ultimately would take responsibility for all of their actions, he dressed in a Secret Field Police uniform with papers in the name of Heinrich Hitzinger. Captured by Russian soldiers on May 20, 1945, he was turned over to the British, to whom he eventually confessed his identity. On May 23, 1945, while undergoing a body search, Himmler killed himself by biting down on a cyanide capsule hidden in his mouth for that very purpose. In 2008, the German magazine *Der Spiegel* described Himmler as one of the most brutal mass murderers in history.

On 1 September 1942, **Eric Koch** became Reichskommissar of Reichskommissariat Ukraine with control of the Gestapo and the uniformed police. His domain now extended from the Baltic to the Black Sea; it comprised ethnic German, Polish, Belarus and Ukrainian areas. As Reichskommissar he had full authority in his realm. Koch's first act in the position was to close local schools, declaring, "Ukraine children need no schools. What they'll have to learn will be taught them by their German masters." His brutality is best exemplified by his remark, "If I meet a Ukrainian worthy of being seated at my table, I must have him shot."



Eric Koch

At the end of the war he fled Germany but was captured by British forces in Hamburg in May 1949. He was sentenced to death in Poland in 1959 for the extermination of 400,000 Poles but was never indicted for his crimes in Ukraine. His sentence was commuted to life imprisonment due to ill health. He remained unrepentant to the end, arguing that he would never have surrendered, as "it was a matter of honor". He died shortly thereafter of natural causes in a Polish prison at the age of 90, as the last war criminal to serve a term in Poland.<sup>51</sup>

At the time of his death, the Polish press agency said he had directed the SS and Wehrmacht death squads that carried out the killings of some four million people and the deportation of two million others from what is now northeastern Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and major parts of the Ukraine. During the war Mr. Koch was quoted as frequently saying that it was better to hang a hundred people too many than one enemy too few.<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>51</sup> "Eric Koch", Wikipedia, April 2017, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erich\\_Koch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erich_Koch)

<sup>52</sup> New York Times, Nov. 15, 1986, <http://www.nytimes.com/1986/11/15/obituaries/erich-koch-dies-in-polish-prison-the-nazi-war-criminal-was-90.html>

From September 1, 1941 to 1944, **Heinrich Schoene** served as General Commissioner for the Volhynia-Podolia General District, based in Lutsk, in the Reichskommissariat of Ukraine. In the same district, he was also district leader of the NSDAP (the Nazi party). Schoene was jointly responsible for the murder of the Jewish population of the General District. In 1942 he became Inspector of the Navy SA. He held the rank of Obergruppenführer in the SA. In 1945, Heinrich Schöene was killed in the fight against the Red Army.<sup>53</sup>



Heinrich Schoene

#### *The Fate of the Family in the Holocaust*

We learned that between July 13 and October 13, 1942, forty-four ghettos were liquidated in Volhynia. The Jews of Pinsk were murdered in two waves. In the summer of 1941, during the initial capture of the city by the Germans, many Jews were killed. Then in the fall of 1942, the surviving Jews who had been forced into a ghetto, were killed. It was Nazi practice to transport Jews from one location to another for consolidation in ghettos and later execution. The Pinsk ghetto was the consolidation location for the Jews in that area.

This section identifies the 29 family members killed in the Holocaust. They are discussed in three groups:

- Group 1 – family members killed in Pinsk
- Group 2 – family members killed away from Pinsk
- Group 3 – family members killed in military service

First the family members are identified. Then a description is provided of the events constituting the killing according to available information. Several sources were employed to identify the victims: the database of Shoah victims at Yad Vashem, information provided by Micha Netser and Leah Dolvopiaty, and the Pinsk Yizkor Book. Most victims were identified by more than one source. Nissan Garbus provided multiple pages of testimony to Yad Vashem on Garbus family victims.

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<sup>53</sup> "Heinrich Schoene", Wikipedia, translated from German, [https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heinrich\\_Schoene](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heinrich_Schoene) (accessed April 2017)

***Holocaust Group 1: Family members killed in Pinsk***

There were 26 family members who were killed in Pinsk. Fifteen of them, the largest number, were from the Matesky-Garbus line. Those killed in Pinsk included Mordechai and Frumah Garbus and family members from five of their eight children. Three of the children survived the war with one settling in the United States and two in Israel.

Family Killed in Pinsk – Matesky-Garbus Line

Last Name	First Name	Gener-ation	Age at Death	Year of Death	Relations
Matesky	Frumah	2	75	1942	child of Eliezer & Sara Lea Matesky; spouse of Mordechai Garbus
Garbus	Mordechai	2	80	1942	spouse of Frumah Matesky
Garbus	Itka	3	38	1942	child of Frumah Matesky & Mordechai Garbus
Dolvopiaty	Moshe	3	37	1942	spouse of Itka Garbus
Garbus	Chava	3	40	1942	child of Frumah Matesky & Mordechai Garbus
Gotlib	David	3	Unk.	Unk.	spouse of Chava Garbus
Garbus	Golda	3	42	1942	child of Frumah Matesky & Mordechai Garbus
LastNameUnk	Shmuel	3	Unk.	Unk.	spouse of Golda Garbus
LastNameUnk	Esther	4	Unk.	Unk.	child of Golda Garbus & LastNameUnk
LastNameUnk	Susan	4	Unk.	Unk.	child of Golda Garbus & LastNameUnk
Males	Judith	3	36	1942	spouse of Nisson Garbus
Garbus	Chaim	4	10	1942	child of Nisson Garbus & Judith Males
Garbus	Leizer	4	6	1942	child of Nisson Garbus & Judith Males
Garbus	Miriam	4	8	1942	child of Nisson Garbus & Judith Males
Michalshtein	Esther	3	Unk.	Unk.	spouse of Itzik Garbus

In the following photo of the Garbus family, all were killed in Pinsk except for Nisson.



Garbus Family, ca. early 1920s (Jewler family)  
From left standing: Golda or Chava\*, Israel\*, and Nisson (?) Garbus  
From left seated: Frumah (Matesky), Itzik\*, and Mordechai Garbus

\*Based on photo identification by Leah Dolvopiat, 2000



Chava Garbus and husband David Laib Gotlib (Jewler family)  
Identification based on phone interview with Leah Dolvopiat Nov. 19, 2000



Yehudit Males, wife of Nisson Garbus, 1931 (J. Wajntraub, Pinsk)

Two of those killed in Pinsk were from the Matesky-Sanderowitz line. These were Feiga Matesky and her husband Mr. Sanderovitz.

#### Family Killed in Pinsk – Matesky-Sanderovitz Line

Last Name	First Name	Gener-ation	Age at Death	Year of Death	Relations
Matesky	Feiga	2	Unk.	1942	child of Eliezer & Sara Lea Matesky; spouse of Mr. Sanderovitz
Sanderovitz	Unknown	2	Unk.	1942	spouse of Feiga Matesky

Five of those killed in Pinsk were from the Matesky-Klitnik line. These were Dina Matesky, her husband Yehuda Zevulin Klitnick, and three of their children. Another one of their children settled in the United States.

#### Family Killed in Pinsk – Matesky-Klitnick Line

Last Name	First Name	Gener-ation	Age at Death	Year of Death	Relations
Matesky	Dina	2	Unk.	1942	child of Eliezer & Sara Lea Matesky; spouse of Yehuda Klitnick
Klitnick	Yehuda	2	Unk.	1942	spouse of Dina Matesky
Klitnick	Chana	3	Unk.	1942	Child of Dina & Yehuda Klitnick
Klitnick	Isaac	3	Unk.	1942	Child of Dina & Yehuda Klitnick
Klitnick	Hershel	3	Unk.	1942	Child of Dina & Yehuda Klitnick

Four of those killed in Pinsk were from the Matesky-Shapiro line. These were Freidel Matesky, her husband Yitzchak Izel Erdman, and their two children.

#### Family Killed in Pinsk – Matesky-Shapiro Line

Last Name	First Name	Generation	Age at Death	Year of Death	Relations
Matesky	Freidel	3	39	1941	child of Eliyahu & Ita Matesky; spouse of Yitzhak Erdman
Erdman	Yitzchak Izel	3	41	1941	spouse of Freidel Matesky
Erdman	Eliezer	4	12	1941	Child of Freidel & Yitzhak Erdman
Erdman	Gitel	4	9	1941	Child of Freidel & Yitzhak Erdman

### The fate of the Jews of Pinsk

#### *The Massacre in 1941*

According to Leah Dolvopiaty, the Garbus family moved to Pinsk to escape the increasing pogroms of the 1930s. The destruction of the Jewish community there is recounted.<sup>54</sup>

On July 4, 1941, the German army conquered Pinsk. It was the first large city in the occupied territories whose Jewish population was to be completely annihilated. On July 9, a unit of the Einsatzgruppen SS arrived in Pinsk and immediately began persecuting and killing the Jews. On July 30, Reichsführer SS Heinrich Himmler issued an order: “All of the Jewish men in Pinsk should be executed, and the women and children should be driven into the swamps.” On August 2, Bruno Magil, commander of the 2nd SS Cavalry Brigade, sent his first and fourth companies to begin murdering the Jews of Pinsk.

On August 4, the commander of the first company, Charwat, went to Pinsk to coordinate activities with Pinsk’s Commandant Werthof. Charwat and Werthof agreed to begin the murder of all Jewish males between the ages of 16 and 60. The following day, 8,000 Jewish males were killed by the first cavalry company of the SS near the village of Posenich, 4 kilometers from Pinsk. The Nazis used the pretext that they were being taken to work as laborers for three days. The murdering continued through August 6, but on a more limited scale. The fourth cavalry arrived in Pinsk later that day to help expedite the actions. On August 7, the two companies along with the local militia drove Jews out of their homes to the gathering area near the village of Koslakowich. The murder of Jewish males from the age of 16 upwards continued and another 3,000 were murdered. During these two tragic days at least 11,000 Jewish males lost their lives.

During the evening of August 8, orders were received by the cavalry company to leave Pinsk and continue on to other destinations while combing the area. During the month of August 1941, almost all of the Jews from the population centers surrounding Pinsk were murdered.

After the first month of occupation, 300 young Jewish men were arrested and beaten. The next day, on August 5, 1941, the first Nazi “action” occurred in Pinsk. This is another account of that from the Pinsk Yizkor Book.<sup>55</sup>

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<sup>54</sup> Adapted from *The Jewish Community of Pinsk* by Nahum Boneh, [www.pinskjew.com/e/frame.htm](http://www.pinskjew.com/e/frame.htm) (accessed April 2018)

<sup>55</sup> *Pinsk Historical Volume: History of the Jews of Pinsk*, The Holocaust Chapter 2: Two Days of Mass Murder, [https://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/pinsk1/Pine12\\_102.html#P1-Chap2](https://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/pinsk1/Pine12_102.html#P1-Chap2) (accessed April 2018)

Early in the morning, that Tuesday, the parents and wives of the arrested men ran to the Judenrat and begged for help, for the rumor had spread that the Germans were asking for a ransom for the prisoners. Near noontime the delegation of the Judenrat entered the office of the commander, accompanied by the mayor. He threw the Jews out of his room with the order: "Out! You damned dogs!" He then ordered the mayor, who had remained in the room, to tell the Jews that all men from eighteen to sixty years of age were to report to work at the railway station. If the order were not obeyed, the 300 Jews who had been arrested the night before would be shot. He was using them as hostages.

Immediately the members of the Judenrat and their messengers scattered all over the town crying: "Jews! All males between the ages of sixteen and sixty must report to the railway station for work. Whoever refuses will be killed with his family." The Polish police too were in the streets, urging the Jews to come out. A rumor spread that they were being sent to Horodiszcze to repair the railway tracks. The members of the Judenrat who went from house to house urging the Jews to obey the orders, also recommended that they take with them food for three days.

In spite of the panic and growing fear, thousands began to move towards the railway station. 8,000 men were lined up in two long columns of five people abreast. An order was given to put all papers, money, watches and other possessions on the ground and to turn pockets inside out. Then 150 bridge workers were taken aside, but before being released and sent home, they had to "clear" the railway square, i.e., to collect all the items that lay scattered on the ground.

It was a hot and bright summer's day. Clouds of dust were raised by thousands of people who were compelled to march quickly, practically to run, and by the horses and motorcycles that surrounded us closely on all sides. Our closely packed column, which must have stretched over kilometers, was approaching the village of Posenicz. Within minutes we climbed down into the roadside ditch and stopped marching. Suddenly shots could be heard.

"We saw the open pits and the Germans with their hands on the triggers of their machine guns and we began to run in panic, trying to escape. Most people turned to the right in the direction of Luniniets. Corn and potato fields attracted the fugitives to that side, but those who ran in that direction turned back at once. Before them were fourteen huge pits awaiting their prey. There was no choice but to run in the opposite direction. There the ground was covered only with low-growing weeds, but in the background a little dark wood beckoned. A hail of shots came from all directions. The shrieks of the wounded mingled with the shouts of the murderers, and the whole scene was shrouded in a cloud of dust. Most Jews remained standing near the pits. They were told to kneel and to crawl to the pit's edge."



Murdered Jewish men from Pinsk near the village Posenich, August 5, 1941  
Photo taken by German soldier

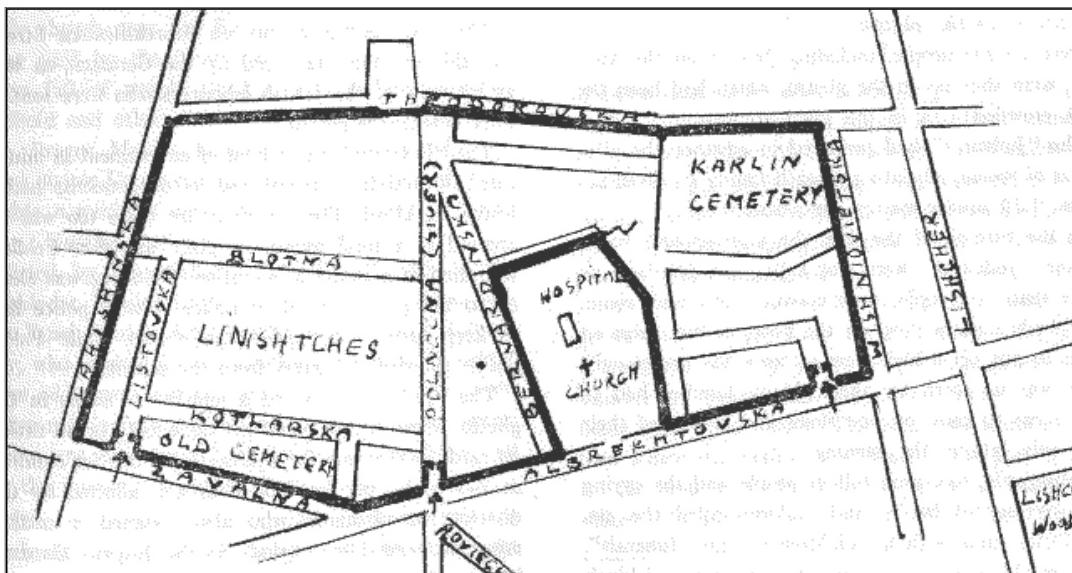


Murdered Jewish men from Pinsk near the village Posenich, August 5, 1941  
(Information Portal to European Sites of Remembrance)

### *The Ghetto in 1942*

[Continuing from *The Jewish Community of Pinsk*] The departure of the troops from Pinsk enabled part of the Pinsk community – made up mainly of women and children – to live for a little over a year. Approximately 20,000 were left behind after the departure of the SS cavalry units. On May 1, 1942, the Pinsk ghetto was established for the remaining Jews.

There were 240 houses in the ghetto which were distributed along 23 streets, and they were divided among the remaining 18-20 thousand Jews left after the massacre. This came down to about one half of a square meter of space for each person. There was a minimum of 10 persons crowded into each room. Family members made efforts to live together in the same room in order to reduce the terrible suffering. As a result of the 11,000 males who were murdered, out of every 100 ghetto members – 86 were women and children up to the age of 15, and there were only 14 males over the age of 15.



Map of Pinsk Ghetto, 1942 (JewishGen)

On October 27, 1942, an order was issued by the Reichsführer SS Heinrich Himmler, which stated: "I hereby issue the order for the destruction of the Pinsk Ghetto even though it has some economic advantages." On Thursday, October 29, just before dawn, companies from the special destruction forces surrounded the ghetto. For three days, the Jews of Pinsk were escorted 5 kilometers from the town to the village of Dobrovolie where mass graves had already been prepared. They were murdered and buried there.

An opposition movement had been formed in the ghetto by a group of young people who collected flammable and explosive material and hid it throughout the ghetto. Their intention was to ignite it when the murdering began thereby creating an opportunity for breaching the ghettos containment wall and fleeing to the nearby forests. Unfortunately, the measure was thwarted. The Judenrat<sup>56</sup> knew about the preparations, and halted this activity using the German pretext that "Pinsk is a working ghetto assisting in our war efforts and it will continue to exist". The resistors were hampered by the small number of available males along with a fear of retaliation by the Germans against the women and children. These factors contributed to the decline in resistance efforts. In the end, the Ghetto was destroyed without resistance, but hundreds of the Pinsk survivors fought the Nazis as partisans or in underground movements.

<sup>56</sup> When the German authorities herded the Jewish population of Poland first into urban areas, and subsequently into ghettos, they required each community to form a Jewish Council known as the *Judenrat*. The councils took on all the duties of a local government. Most importantly for the Germans, the councils acted as intermediaries to carry out their increasingly oppressive dictates.

### *The Aftermath*

A trial was held in Germany against seven of the murderers of the Jews of Pinsk. The trial lasted for 14 months and several of the Pinsk Ghetto survivors testified at the proceedings. The conclusion of the trial resulted in light punishments for the accused.

In 1993, a memorial was erected at the mass grave at Dobrovolie by 200 members of the Association of the Jews of Pinsk who came from Israel and elsewhere in the Diaspora. The event was attended by representatives from the Belarus army and the city of Pinsk as well as hundreds of local adults and school children. Another three memorial tablets commemorating the Jewish victims were installed near the villages of Posenich, (8,000 men), Kozlakovich (3,000 men), and next to the Jewish cemetery in Karlin where the last 123 remaining Jews were exterminated on Christmas eve December 23, 1942.

### *Holocaust Group 2: Family member killed away from Pinsk*

There is one family member who was killed as a civilian during World War II while in the midst of traveling away from Poland.

Family Killed away from Pinsk – Matesky-Shapiro Line

Last Name	First Name	Gener-ation	Age at Death	Year of Death	Relations
Matesky	Israel	3	32	1941	child of Eliyahu & Ita Matesky

On June 29, 1939, Israel Matesky obtained a travel document from the Polish government that permitted him to travel to Palestine which is where he had family. Three months later, on September 30, 1939 the Germans launched World War II and invaded Poland. It is understood that Israel escaped from Pinsk but was captured by Lithuanians and killed in 1941.



Israel Matesky, Pinsk, 1930s (Micha Netser)

Wzór Nr 2

**ZGŁOSZENIE ZMIANY MIESZKANIA ZAMIESZKANIA**

**M. P. S K.**

**Nr mieszkania**

**3**

**Uwatecni**

**a) Nazwisko**

b) do przekształcania nazwisk panieńskich i z uprzedzenia żoniego (tak/nie)

**2. Imiona** Trael

(kolejność i pisownia imion według metryki urodzenia - imię używane podkreśnięte)

**3. Imiona rodziców** El i Jana

i nazwisko panieńskie matki

**4. Wyprowadził (a) się** 8 m-ca W 1939.

**5. Dokąd się wyprowadził** do Palestyny (następne miejsce zamieszkania)

(miejscowość, gmina, ulica, Nr domu)

**6. Zawód** i stanowisko w zarządzane, stanowiące główne źródło utrzymania Holanta

**7. Urodził (a) się dn.** 10 1909

w Województwo (miejscowość, gmina, województwo, kraj)

**8. Wyznanie** (według metryki) Protestant

**9. a) Stan cywilny** Casaler  
(kawaler, żonaty, wdowiec, żałobny (a), panna, mężatka, wdowa)

**b) Imię drugiego z małżonkiem** W

Polish Notification of Change of Residence for Israel Matesky (page 1),  
1939 (Pinsk Archive)

### *Holocaust Group 3: Family members killed as soldiers*

There are two family members who were killed while fighting as soldiers during World War II. They were the brothers Israel and Itzik Garbus. The two of them, along with a third brother, Nisson, joined the Polish cavalry during the war.

## Family Killed as Soldiers – Matesky-Garbus Line

Last Name	First Name	Gener- ation	Age at Death	Year of Death	Relations
Garbus	Israel	3	41	1942	child of Frumah Matesky and Mordechai Garbus
Garbus	Itzik	3	30	1942	child of Frumah Matesky and Mordechai Garbus; spouse of Esther Michalshtein

Leah Dolvopiat stated that Nisson told her that Israel was killed in service in 1942. This was just as he was ready to come home.



Israel Garbus, 1920s (Jewler family)



Itzik Garbus, 1939-40 (Jewler family)

After joining the Polish cavalry, Itzik was stationed near Warsaw. According to Leah Dolvopiaty, the family would hear from him periodically and then the correspondence stopped. They did not know what happened to him but assumed that he had been killed.

### Concluding Thoughts

Thus, twenty-nine family members were killed in World War II – twenty-seven as civilians and two as soldiers. For the twenty-six who were killed in Pinsk, the details of this community's suffering were documented by survivors. In this way, future generations can learn of the horrors of those who perished, seemingly abandoned by civilization.

Matesky Family Holocaust Groups	Total Killed
(1) Family killed in Pinsk	26
(2) Family killed away from Pinsk	1
(3) Family killed during military service	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>

However, there were two family members who survived the killing fields. One was a soldier and the other a civilian. They each were sent to Siberia and when they returned found that their families had been killed. They each survived the war and settled elsewhere, raising families. We will learn the stories of these people next.

### ***Holocaust Survivors***

In the prior section, we learned that twenty-nine family members were killed in the Holocaust. We also learned that two individuals survived the killing.

Last Name	First Name	Generation	Relations	Wartime Status
Garbus	Nisson	3	son of Frumah Matesky & Mordechai Garbus	soldier
Dolvopiaty	Leah	4	Daughter of Itke Garbus & Moshe Dolvopiaty	civilian

Nisson Garbus and Leah Dolvopiaty survived the war because they were exiled to Siberia, far from the mass killing in Poland. Throughout his rule, Joseph Stalin ordered the forced migration of various groups usually to underpopulated remote areas within the Soviet Union. During World War II, Polish civilians and military personnel in the Russian-occupied zone were subject to deportation to remote areas of the USSR.

After the Soviet invasion of Poland from the east and the German invasion from the west in 1939, the Soviet Union annexed the eastern parts of the Second Polish Republic (known as Kresy). During 1939 to 1941, 1.45 million people inhabiting the region were deported by the Soviet regime, of whom 63.1% were Poles and 7.4% were Jews.<sup>57</sup>



Soviet deportation of Poles from Kresy, 1940 (Wikimedia Commons)

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<sup>57</sup> "Population transfer in the Soviet Union", Wikipedia,  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Population\\_transfer\\_in\\_the\\_Soviet\\_Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Population_transfer_in_the_Soviet_Union) (accessed April 2018)

Following the Soviet invasion of Poland, some of the first populations to be exiled were the Polish soldiers.

The Soviet Union never officially declared war on Poland and ceased to recognize the Polish state at the start of the invasion. The Soviets did not classify Polish military personnel as prisoners of war, but as rebels against the new Soviet government in today's Western Ukraine and West Belarus. The reign of terror by the NKVD<sup>58</sup> and other Soviet agencies began in 1939 as an inherent part of the Sovietization of Kresy. The first victims of the new order were approximately 250,000 Polish prisoners of war captured by the USSR during and after the invasion of Poland. As the Soviet Union had not signed international conventions on rules of war, the Polish prisoners were denied legal status. The Soviet forces murdered almost all captured officers and sent numerous ordinary soldiers to the Soviet Gulag.<sup>59</sup>

A description is provided of one of the first forced migrations of captured Poles to a remote area.<sup>60</sup>

On 4 December 1939 the Soviet politburo ordered the NKVD to arrange the expulsion of certain groups of Polish citizens deemed to pose a danger to the new order: military veterans, foresters, civil servants, policemen, and their families. Then, on one evening in February 1940, in temperatures of about forty below zero, the NKVD gathered them all: 139,794 people taken from their homes at night at gunpoint to unequipped freight trains bound for special settlements in distant Soviet Kazakhstan or Siberia. The entire course of life was changed before people knew what had happened to them. The special settlements, part of the Gulag system, were the forced-labor zones to which the kulaks had been sent ten years before.

During the war, Nisson had joined the Polish cavalry along with his two brothers, Israel and Itzik who were killed. During the war, Nisson was captured by the Russian army and sent to Siberia. When the war ended and he returned home, he found that his wife and children had been killed by the Nazis.

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<sup>58</sup> The People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs was the interior ministry of the Soviet Union. The NKVD undertook mass extrajudicial executions of untold numbers of citizens, and conceived, populated and administered the Gulag system of forced labor camps. Their agents were responsible for the mass deportations of entire nationalities to uninhabited regions of the country. Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NKVD> (accessed April 2018)

<sup>59</sup> "Soviet repressions of Polish citizens (1939-1946)", Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet\\_repressions\\_of\\_Polish\\_citizens\\_\(1939-1946\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet_repressions_of_Polish_citizens_(1939-1946)) (accessed April 2018)

<sup>60</sup> Timothy Snider, *Bloodlands, Europe Between Hitler and Stalin*, Basic Books, 2010, p. 128-129



Nisson Garbus, 1939-40 (Jewler family)

[Esther Jewler continuing] *Bubbe was hoping to bring her family over. In those days you had to sign for relatives that they would not become public charges. By the time she was able to save enough money to bring someone over, the McCarran act was passed. That put a restriction on refugees from Eastern Europe, from which most of the Jews came. That ended the chance of bringing anyone over.*

During the First World War, significant opposition to immigration developed in the United States. The following is adapted from *The Course of Modern Jewish History*.<sup>61</sup>

Some were concerned the cities were becoming “hives” of alien “corruption” in the Catholic and Jewish areas. Some German Americans suggested that white Protestant Americans were in danger of being “mongrelized” by the “rabble” of Italian slums and Russian ghettos. After the Bolshevik Revolution of November 1917, traditional patriot groups (e.g., Daughters of the American Revolution and American Legion) argued that America’s doors should be closed to prevent infiltration by East European “radicals”.

In March 1921, President Warren Harding and the Congress, in response to pressure from the “exclusionists,” rewrote America’s immigration laws. The 1921 Quota Act (Johnson Act) set the first immigration quotas in the nation’s history. The new legislation limited annual immigration of a nationality to 3 percent of the persons of that nationality who resided in the United States as of the 1910 census. In 1924, the Immigration Act (Johnson-Reid Act) reduced immigration quotas to 2 percent of nationalities and the base year was changed from 1910 to 1890. This date was prior to the sizable migration to the U.S. from Southern and Eastern Europe and was crafted to restrict such nationalities. The legislation was an attempt to keep the ethnic makeup of the United States predominantly Anglo-Saxon.

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<sup>61</sup> Howard Sachar, *The Course of Modern Jewish History*, Dell publishing, 1958

This restrictive legislation set a precedent for other nations. In the decade of the 1920's, a closed-door policy on Eastern European immigration was established in Canada, England, Australia, Argentina, and Brazil. In the years leading up to the rise of the Nazis, Eastern European Jews became sealed off from the West.

In 1952, the Immigration and Nationality Act (McCarran-Walter Act) was passed over President Truman's veto. It reaffirmed the basic provisions of the national origins quota system.

Minnie corresponded with her family until sometime in the 1930s after the Nazis came to power. She would send them money and they would send her dried mushrooms and groats. (Esther remembers her mother cooking these foods and serving them to the family.) At some point in the 1930s, Minnie stopped receiving correspondence from her family. Her parents and five of her siblings and their families perished in the war.

As stated, Minnie Garbus' brother, Nisson, survived the Second World War as he had been exiled to Siberia. Another brother, Shmuel, managed to escape to Palestine in the 1930s prior to the war. Shmuel's daughter, Ruti Adar, provided an account of her father's pre-war escape.<sup>62</sup>

*My father's family lived in a small village near Pinsk. They lived in poverty and my father had to work from an early age in order to help provide for the family. My parents met and married in Poland and left for Palestine by boat in the 1930s. They had to buy certificates of entry on the black market since immigration was illegal under the British Mandate. Life in Palestine was very hard in those days as there was hardly any work and means of living. Eventually my father found work in a juice manufacturing plant, Yafora, where he worked until his retirement.*

After the war, Leah made her way back to Lahishyn from her exile in Siberia and inquired after her family. She found a Gentile neighbor and asked if he knew of her family's status. The neighbor said yes, he knew – he had seen the whole family lined up and shot by the Nazis.

#### ***Post War***

We have seen that two family members living in Poland at the outset of the war survived – Leah Dolvopiat and Nisson Garbus. Another family member, Shmuel Garbus, immigrated to Palestine just prior to the war.

Following her return from Siberia, Leah was in a displaced persons camp. There she met and married Philip Flaks, himself a survivor from Lvov, Ukraine<sup>63</sup>, and immigrated to the Bronx in the United States. In 1946, their son, Martin, was born. Philip died in 1986 and Martin in 1991 leaving Leah alone in a modest apartment in the Bronx. In 2000, she participated in a call with Esther and Leonard Jewler to identify Garbus family members in old photos that are included in this book. She passed away in 2003.

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<sup>62</sup> Ruti Adar, email correspondence, September 26, 2018

<sup>63</sup> According to the JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry Philip was a member of the Lvov Landsmanshaft



Leah & Philip Flaks with son Martin, 1957 (Jewler family)

\* \* \* \* \*

#### Esther Lutsky on Minnie Lutsky Garbus' siblings after World War II

*Bubbe unfortunately never saw her family again until fifty years later when she went to Israel and met her two younger brothers who had moved there. One, Shmuel, came just before Hitler came to power, and settled with his wife on a kibbutz. The other one, Nisson, was drafted into the Polish army, sent to Siberia when Russia invaded Poland, and after the war made his way through the Haganah to Israel. He had lost his immediate family.*

*Shmuel went to Israel, to Palestine, in the early 1930s. He must have realized that that was the way to go. He made it out of Europe. The others were killed. I never did ask him about his early life. I know that his daughters were born in Palestine.*



Shmuel Garbus with daughters Ruti (left) & Ofra (right), Israel, ca. 1948 (Ruti Adar)

*Through the Haganah, Nisson got to Israel. When he returned from Siberia where he had been sent in the Polish army, he went to look for his family and realized there was no one left; so through the underground he made it to Israel. There he married a woman in the grocery business with a child and ran the business. In fact, even though he sold the business, he works there to this day and he is well into his eighties. He's a wonderful person who looks just like Bubbe, who acts just like Bubbe, and is a remarkable man. I'm still corresponding with him.*

*I know that Nisson was very broken-hearted about losing his family – a wife and four children, a set of twins and two single children. It's very painful for him to talk about. It was a hard life for everybody.*

\* \* \* \* \*

In 1963, Minnie traveled by herself on an ocean liner to Israel. This was one year after her husband, Solomon, passed away after 45 years of marriage.



Minnie (on left in middle row) on board ship to Israel in 1963 at age 65 (Jewler family)

In Israel, she met her two surviving brothers, Nisson and Shmuel, who she had not seen since she fled Lahishyn in 1913 – fifty years earlier.



Garbus sibling reunion in Israel, 1963 (Ruti Adar)  
From left: Minnie Garbus, Estar Garbus (Nisson's 2<sup>nd</sup> wife), Shmuel Garbus,  
Nisson Garbus, Ruti Adar (Shmuel's daughter)



Minnie & Nisson Garbus reunion in Israel, 1963 (Jewler family)



Minnie & Shmuel Garbus reunion in Israel, 1963 (Jewler family)

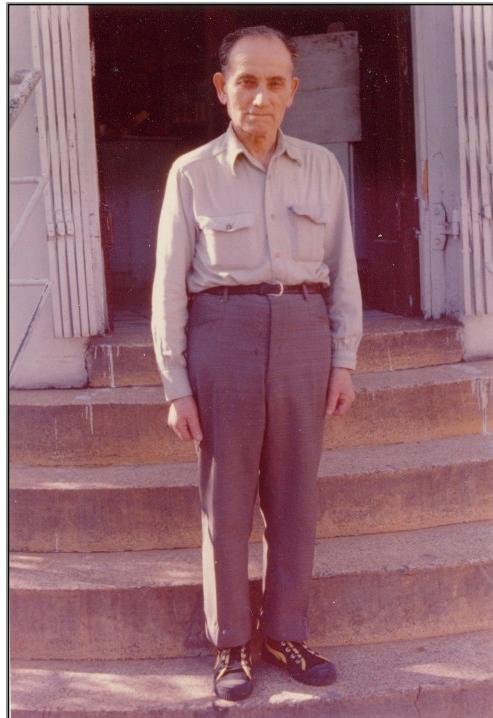
Esther corresponded with Nisson for many years. In 1999, Nisson died. He still worked occasionally in the family store. He was 93 years old.

### Reminiscence

Leonard Jewler, Minnie (Garbus) Lutsky's grandson

In April and May of 1980, I traveled to and lived in Israel. During that time, I visited with Nisson, then 64, on several occasions. I was struck by the remarkable similarity in appearance and demeanor between Nisson and his sister Minnie. They both had a sparkle in their eye and a zest for life in spite of the ordeals they had endured. Once, while in Nisson's store, I witnessed him hop up on the counter in his tennis shoes, grab an item on a high shelf, and jump to the floor.

Nisson invited me to his home in the Tel Aviv area several times. We would sit in a small room on chairs facing each other. He would always serve me a glass of hot tea with lemon. And we would talk – somehow. Nisson spoke Russian, Hebrew, and Yiddish. I spoke English, could read and understand some Hebrew words, and recognized occasional Yiddish expressions. I used my Hebrew-English dictionary to painstakingly construct primitive sentences and translate his individual words. We spent hours talking, laughing, sitting in silence, and sipping tea.



Nisson Garbus in Israel, May 1980 (Jewler family)

## Concluding Thoughts on the Family and the Holocaust

Between the two world wars, the Pinsk region was situated in eastern Poland. With the signing of the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact of 1939 and the subsequent partition of Poland between Germany and the Soviet Union, this region, located just east of the line, fell under the control of the Soviets. The region was subject to one German and two Soviet occupations and its people “suffered more than those of any other region of Europe...The Jews in this small zone made up more than a quarter of the total victims of the Holocaust.”<sup>64</sup>

For those living in that area at the start of the war, the chances of surviving the conflict were scant. Out of the thirty-one family members living there in 1939, only two survived. They each found safe haven in new lands elsewhere – the United States and Israel – and proceeded to marry and forge new lives.

We have seen that twenty-nine family members were murdered in the Holocaust. These individuals were part of the 5.7 million Jews who were killed in the Holocaust. Everyone was an innocent victim. Everyone was a unique individual and not simply an anonymous contributor to an abstract count of mass murder.

Victims left behind mourners. Killers left behind numbers. To join in a large number after death is to be dissolved into a stream of anonymity. To be enlisted posthumously into competing national memories, bolstered by the numbers of which your life has become a part, is to sacrifice individuality. It is to be abandoned by history, which begins from the assumption that each person is irreducible.<sup>65</sup>

The twenty-nine family members likely perished in terror and with a sense of abandonment. In recovering and sharing their names, their photos, and their stories, I pursue the modest goal of restoring their elemental humanity and dignity. Their tormentors wanted them to experience abandonment and anonymity but the family that mourns them, in another time and another land, insists that they be remembered as the unique individuals that they were.

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<sup>64</sup> Timothy Snider, *Bloodlands*, p.344-345

<sup>65</sup> Ibid., p. 407

## Lutsky Family Reunion

At the suggestion of Micha Netser, in the spring of 2018, an organizing committee was formed to explore the feasibility of holding a reunion of descendants of Michael and Chava Lutsky, who immigrated from Pinsk in Czarist Russia to Palestine in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The committee consisted of five descendants representing three Lutsky family lines.

Ellen Berler, granddaughter of Nathan Lutsky

Len Jewler, grandson of Solomon Lutsky

Jonny Lewis, grandson of Nathan Lutsky

Michael Lewis, grandson of Nathan Lutsky

Susan Lewis Solomont, granddaughter of Bernard Lutsky

After a year of planning, several generations of descendants of Michael and Chava Lutsky gathered at the Hampton Inn Harrison/Newark Riverwalk Hotel, over a weekend in May 2019. Many family members met each other for the first time. Nearly 40 people attended over the three days.

The agenda for the weekend was as follows:

### Friday Evening, May 17

1. Cocktail hour at hotel bar area: 18 people
2. Dinner at La Fiamma restaurant nearby: 17 people

### Saturday Afternoon & Evening, May 18

1. Afternoon socializing and lunch: 18 people
2. Cocktail hour at hotel bar area: 38 people
3. Dinner and presentation at hotel meeting room: 38 people

### Sunday Morning, May 19

- Brunch at hotel meeting room: 30 people



Family members at dinner at La Fiamma Restaurant, New Jersey, Friday, May 17, 2019

On Saturday evening, Micha Netser gave a presentation on the Lutsky family history dating back to the settlement of Michael and Chava Lutsky in Palestine in the 1880s. Then representatives from each family line spoke for a few minutes about their particular family and ancestors.



Micha Netser from Tel Aviv presenting Lutsky family history, May 18, 2019 (Richard Lewis)



Attendees discussing family history, May 18, 2019



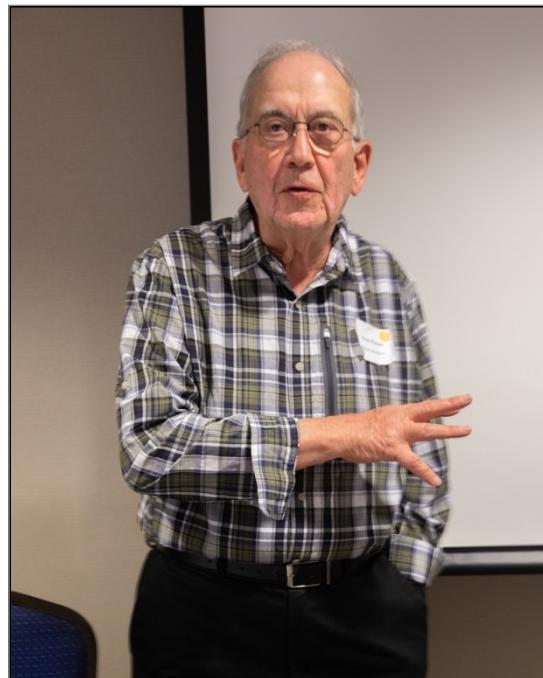
Jonny Lewis from S. Deerfield, MA discussing  
Nathan Lutsky's family line, 2019 (R. Lewis)



Leonard Jewler from Wash. DC discussing  
Solomon Lutsky's family line, 2019 (R. Lewis)



Susan Solomont from Weston, MA discussing  
Bernard Lutsky's family line, 2019 (R. Lewis)



Avner Parnes from Silver Spring, MD  
discussing Haya Lutsky's family line, 2019 (R.  
Lewis)



Gonen Stein from New York discussing Rivka Lutsky's family line, 2019 (R. Lewis)



Ellen Berler from Tallahassee, FL welcoming attendees, 2019

Five of the seven family lines were represented at the reunion and group photos were taken of each line in attendance. (Family lines are shown in the Lutsky sibling birth order.)

Family Line	Count	Attendees
Nathan	8	Ellen Berler & Rob Contreras; Jonny & Melanie Lewis, Helen Lewis; Michael & Arlene Lewis, Adam Lewis.
Solomon	3	Len Jewler & Andrea Rosen, Sam Jewler.
Chaya	4	Sara & Jacob Goren; Avner & Debbie Parnes.
Bernard	19	Stephen, Nicole, Sydney, Skylar, & Shira Katz; Blanche Lewis; David Lewis & Honey Weiss; Rich & Vivian Lewis; Amy, Rob, Leo & Andrew Mendel; Beth and Jeff Mendel; Susan Solomont; Ariella & Jordan Suchow.
Rivka	4	Micha & Ofra Netser, Udi Netser; Gonen Stein.
Total	38	



Nathan Lutsky family. Top from left: Adam Lewis, Ellen Berler, Rob Contreras; Bottom from left: Arlene & Michael Lewis, Jonny, Helen & Melanie Lewis. 2019 (Richard Lewis)



Solomon Lutsky family. From left: Len Jewler, Sam (Jewler) Zinler, Andrea Rosen. 2019 (Richard Lewis)



Bernard Lutsky family. Standing from left: Jeff & Beth Mendel, Honey Weiss, Ariella Suchow, Sydney, Skylar, David, Nicole, & Shira Katz; Seated from left: Susan Solomont, Blanche Lewis, Micha Netser, Vivian Lewis, David Lewis; Seated on floor: Amy & Rob Mendel with Leo & Andrew, Rich Lewis. 2019 (Rich Lewis)



Haya Lutsky family. From left: Avner & Debbie Parnes, Sara & Jacob Goren. 2019 (Rich Lewis)



Rivka Lutsky family. From left: Udi Netser, Micha & Ofra Netser,  
Gonen Stein. 2019 (Rich Lewis)

Multiple generations attended the reunion. (In the following table, generations are expressed in relation to the eight Lutsky siblings born to Michael and Chava Lutsky.)

Descendants vs. Spouses	Generation	Number of Attendees
Descendants	grandchildren (second cousins)	12
	great-grandchildren (third cousins)	9
	great-great-grandchildren	2
Total descendants		<b>23</b>
Spouses		<b>15</b>
Total		<b>38</b>



Lutsky second cousins: Standing from left: Stephen Katz, Beth Mendel, Len Jewler, David Lewis, Susan Solomont, Jonny Lewis, Udi Netser; Seated: Rich Lewis, Michael Lewis, Ellen Berler, Avner Parnes, Sara Goren. 2019 (Rich Lewis)



Lutsky third cousins, standing from left: Amy Winston, Adam Lewis, Helen Lewis, Gonen Stein; Seated from left: Sam Jewler, Skylar Katz, Sydney Katz, Ariella Suchow, Shira Katz. 2019 (R. Lewis)



All reunion attendees, Saturday May 18, 2019 (Rich Lewis)

There was a flurry of attendee correspondence immediately following the reunion. Terms frequently used included, “wonderful”, “outstanding”, “heart-warming”, “delightful”, “amazing”, and “beyond expectations.”

A hundred or so years after coming to this country the Lutsky family came together again. Based on attendee comments, there may be more family gatherings to come.



Sunday brunch, saying goodbye, May 19, 2019

## PART II – THE FAMILY OF SOLOMON AND MINNIE LUTSKY

## Solomon Lutsky and Minnie Garbus in New York

### *Early Family Life and Businesses*

Solomon and Minnie had their first child, Lillian, in Manhattan, New York on April 11, 1918. Lillian was named *Sarah Lea* in Hebrew in honor of Minnie's maternal grandmother of the same name. Their second child, Esther, was born in Brooklyn, New York on August 29, 1920. Esther was named *Hadassah* in Hebrew in honor an ancestor named *Esther Lea*. (At the time of Esther's birth, it was the convention to use *Hadassah* as the Hebraic version of *Esther*.) Their third child, Muriel, was born in Bronx, New York on January 25, 1928. Muriel was named *Michla* in Hebrew in honor of her paternal grandfather Michel Lutsky.

In the family's early years, Solomon opened a hardware store, but nothing is known of this business. In 1922, after selling the first business, Solomon opened a second store selling hardware and house furnishings at 4510 Fort Hamilton Parkway in Brooklyn. At this time, Sol also attended a school to learn English and carpentry.



Esther Lutsky, New York, early 1930s (Jewler family)

### **Esther Lutsky on Solomon's first business in New York**

*Zayde's first hardware store was before I was born. Later on the store I remember was on Fort Hamilton Parkway in Brooklyn. At that point, I must have been a little over two when they opened that store. I remember living behind the store. They had two bedrooms, a dining room, a big kitchen and one bathroom. That was the extent of the apartment behind the store. I also remember mushrooms growing in the corners because the apartment had no basement under it. It was built right on the ground. I remember hearing Bubbe scrubbing the kitchen floor at 12:00 at night because they closed the store late and that was the only time she had to do housework, around midnight.*

*They were open seven days a week. They closed Sunday around 3:00 in the afternoon. That was the afternoon off to have dinner and just rest.*

*The hours of the store were -- forever. From early in the morning, I would say around 8:00 until close at 10:00, 11:00 at night, depending on what the business was, how busy they were. I remember people banging on the windows in the back at 3:00 in the morning because they were out of fuses -- their lights went off. And we had to reopen the store to sell them fuses.*

*Zayde had made a cabinet behind the register that he built himself lined in green felt with glass doors. He was very, very proud of his display. He had all the most beautiful Stanley tools lined up in the cabinet behind shiny glass doors. People often remarked at the beautiful display -- the way the tools were mounted on the green felt. The nails were sold by the pound, loose, which was a unique thing for me. Each bin had a different size nail. It was very carefully done.*



Esther, Minnie, and Lillie (from left) on vacation at Lakewood New Jersey, 1926 (Jewler family)

*Not only did they have hardware, but they had house furnishings as well -- pots and pans of good quality, dishes, dinner sets, and glassware, which periodically Bubbe would put in the bathtub lined with a Turkish towel, and wash and dry carefully, and put back on display. They worked very, very hard. Two honest, hard-working good people.*

*Of course, my older sister and I also worked in the store whenever we could help in any way -- putting things out, cleaning things up, sweeping, whatever. We all helped. It was very difficult to have a family affair at dinner because whenever the bell on the door rang, Zayde would have to get up from the table and go wait on the customer. It wasn't easy having dinner together.*

*So Bubbe would serve dinner to the family while Zayde would stay in the store. He would break away and join us when he could. And sometimes she was in the store with him. If things were very busy, then dinner was delayed. When we all sat for dinner, then no one was running the store at that time. If a customer came, Zayde would have to remove whatever was in his mouth and go back in the store and take care of the customer because that was very important. Life was not easy then -- long hours, hard work. Some customers were wonderful, and others gave you a hard time.*

*In 1927, Zayde sold the second store and bought another one in the Bronx on Watson Avenue and Elder. We moved to a one-bedroom apartment. On January 25, 1928, Muriel was born. Lilly and I slept on a day bed in the dining room and Bubbe and Zayde had the bedroom. When Muriel was born, the three of them shared the bedroom.*



Esther (left) and Muriel (front) with friends Irma and Tessie

Dated April 15, 1932 and labeled "Gang Comedy"

Borough Park, New York

\* \* \* \*

World War I ended for America on November 11, 1918 and its soldiers were welcomed by a paper-strewn parade down Fifth Avenue. The decade of the 1920s became known as the Jazz Age and cultural luminaries in New York significantly affected American culture at large. Great composers who started in New York included George and Ira Gershwin, Cole Porter, Jerome Kern, and Lorenz Hart. Other New York luminaries included Eugene O'Neill, Duke Ellington, Bix Beiderbecke, James Thurber, Al Jolson, Babe Ruth, Damon Runyon, Walter Winchell, Walter Lippman, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Thomas Wolfe. Widely known throughout America, these were stars of the theater, music, literature, and journalism.

New York also witnessed major construction projects in the years between 1923 and 1931. These included major parkways such as the Bronx River, the Hutchinson River, the Saw Mill River, and the Cross County. The Holland Tunnel was completed in 1927 and the George Washington Bridge in 1931. The Chrysler and Empire State Buildings were completed in 1929.



Esther, Muriel, and Lilly (from left)  
at Morningside Hotel in the Catskills, 1932 (Jewler family)

### *The Depression*

*Then the Crash came in 1929. Zayde had extended credit to a lot of builders that were putting up new apartment houses in our area of the Bronx. When the credit was extended to them and the market crashed, they lost everything and could not pay Zayde for whatever materials they bought. They bought locks, hinges, and metal fixtures needed for doors.*

*We didn't have a radio in those days, but the newspapers all had these terrible headlines about the Crash, about everybody losing all their money. Some of the builders couldn't face life and they committed suicide right from the buildings that were standing halffinished. It was a very sad time. As children, we were terrified of walking on the sidewalks where we could see there had been a suicide. So, it was very sad, the air was black with sadness.*

*When the Crash came, people were no longer buying dinner sets, no longer buying good quality pots and pans. They would go the 5 & 10 for one pot or one pan or one dish or one spoon. So that took care of all of that. People weren't buying good tools either.*

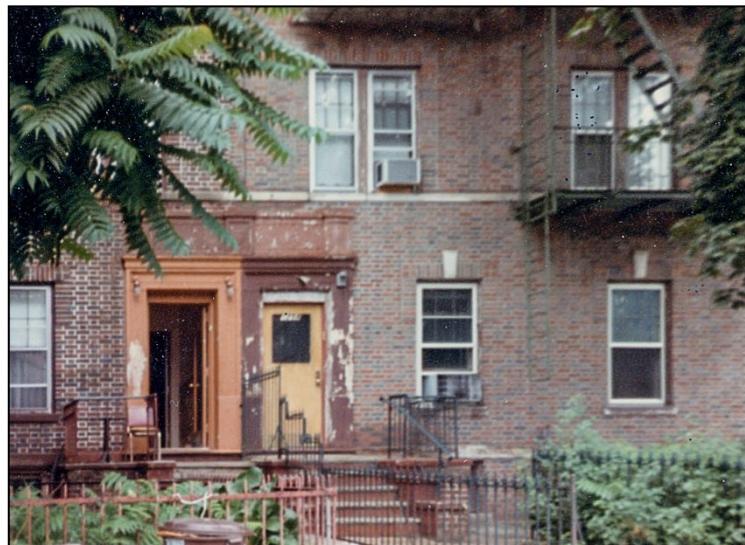
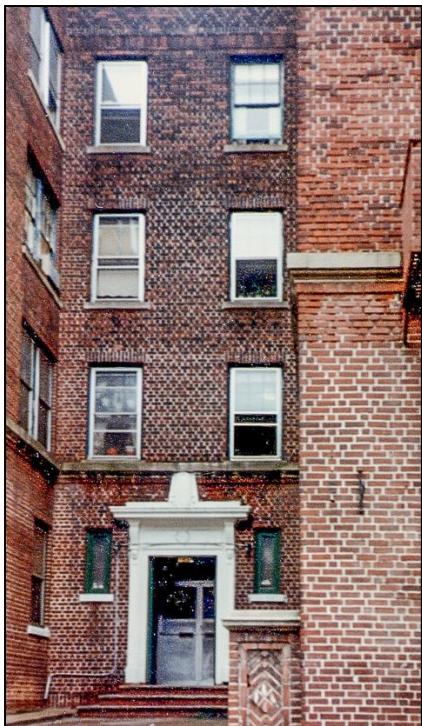
*We realized that Zayde's store was at risk because we heard our parents talk about it. At that point I was nine years old and I was able to understand that times were very difficult. Bubbe and Zayde knew that they would not be able to pay the bills because of the credit that was extended to the builders and none of the money was ever paid. Consequently, Zayde couldn't pay his creditors. So Zayde eventually lost the store. [This was the third store.] So we moved back to Brooklyn.*

*We moved from the Bronx back to Borough Park. It was 1929 or perhaps early 1930. And Zayde bought back the store on credit that he left in Borough Park. And again, we worked very, very hard – all of us. I had to watch Muriel or work in the store – wherever I was needed more. Sometimes I would have to stay in the store while Zayde grabbed lunch and I would get back to school late which upset me very much. But, that's the way it worked. I remember crossing a very bad intersection – there was never time for Bubbe or Zayde to take us across. We had to do it on our own.*

*Again, the Depression hit very hard. People just couldn't afford to patronize a store like ours. Of course, in 1932 the banks closed, and I remember everybody coming into the store and saying, "What are we going to do? All of our money was in the banks." And there was no insurance in those days. So, most people lost almost all of their money including Bubbe and Zayde. After struggling many hours through very difficult times, they realized that they could not make a go of it. So, in 1933, I believe, our store closed. It is now an "appetizing" store on Fort Hamilton Parkway. Zayde became a salesman door-to-door of anything that he could sell.*



Site of Sol Lutsky hardware store at 4510 Fort Hamilton Parkway, Brooklyn, 1985 (Jewler family)



Sol and Minnie Lutsky residences in Brooklyn, 1985 (Jewler family)  
1020 45<sup>th</sup> Street (left), 1254 44<sup>th</sup> Street (right)

The Great Depression began with a catastrophic collapse of stock-market prices on the New York Stock Exchange on Black Friday, October 24, 1929. During the next three years stock prices in the United States continued to fall, until by late 1932 they had dropped to approximately 20 percent of their value in 1929. In addition to ruining tens of thousands of individual investors, the dramatic decline in the value of assets placed a severe strain on banks and other financial institutions. As a result, many banks were driven to insolvency; by 1933, 11,000 of the United States' 25,000 banks had failed. The numerous bank failures, combined with a general loss of confidence in the economy, led to lower levels of spending and demand and hence of production, further aggravating the downward spiral. The result was drastically falling output and rising unemployment: by 1932, U.S. manufacturing output had fallen to 54 percent of its 1929 level and unemployment had risen to between 12 and 15 million workers, or 25-30 percent of the work force.

The mood for many turned to one of anger; many were unemployed, evicted for non-payment of rent and without enough food for their family, and threatened to take food from stores unless they were given it at no cost. Most of the people in bread lines had lost everything. For a while, 5,000 homeless people sold apples on the streets of New York City.

*Eventually, Zayde went to work for his brother, Bernard, whose company was called the Franklin Machine Company at 663 Broadway in New York City. The salary was a very small one, I believe it was \$25 a week and our rent at that time was \$43 a month. As a result, Bubbe had to take in sewing because three of us were in school and we just couldn't make ends meet. We lived through very difficult times but we were not alone – the whole country was in bad times. I remember men standing on the street selling apples for a nickel, freezing in the bitter cold. And these were people who had been in business, who had good professions but who lost everything. So sadness was all over, we were not alone.*

*After he lost the store in Brooklyn, we moved to Brownsville on Herzel Street, and at that point he was working for his brother at the Franklin Machine Company. It was a nice building and a nice apartment in a nice area but somehow or other we never felt at home there – Borough Park seemed to be our home.*

*Eventually, Zayde took a test for the government. In those days, if you had a job with the government, you had security. That was the best thing anyone could hope for, the most wonderful thing -- to know where your next paycheck was coming from. So Zayde eventually did go to work for the Army in New Jersey.*

On June 10 1941, Sol took a job as a carpenter with the General Services Administration (GSA) at the Jersey City Quartermaster Depot in Jersey City, New Jersey. He earned 97 cents an hour. He performed a variety of carpentry work there until February 1946 when he and Minnie moved to Washington D.C. A commendation letter for Sol from the commanding officer of the Quartermaster Depot is reproduced below. According to the letter, the Lutsky family at the time lived at 1254 44<sup>th</sup> Street in Brooklyn New York.

In Washington, Sol continued to work for GSA, this time at the Public Buildings Administration. A commendation was provided by Captain Peter Bury USAF on January 15, 1952, upon completion of "extensive construction and repair work" which was supervised by Sol. In it was stated the following:

"I would like to express my appreciation for the results and manner in which they were performed. Mr. Lutsky appears to be a very capable and congenial supervisor. During the several weeks that Mr. Lutsky worked here, he accomplished his job in a very expeditious manner. I find Mr. Lutsky to be a very polite, courteous and capable gentleman.

I am taking this opportunity to forward to you this complimentary letter because I know that in a similar situation, I would be very pleased to receive such complimentary remarks concerning personnel under my supervision."

\* \* \* \*

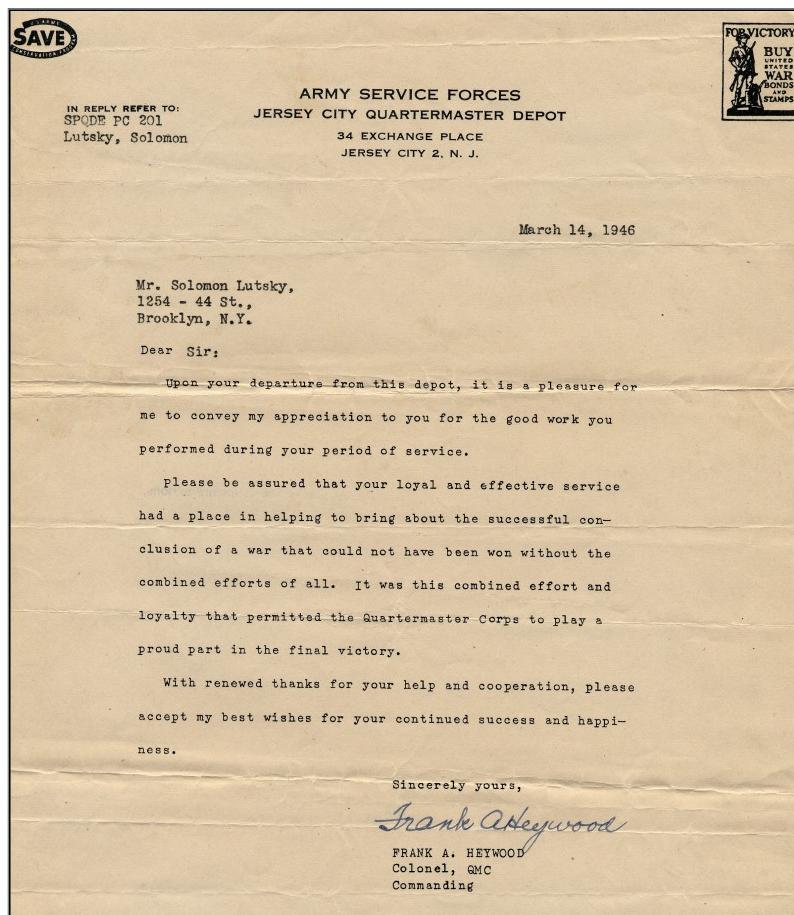
*At one point he had hoped to go back to Israel, the whole family was supposed to move to Israel. For whatever reason -- it was not clearly explained -- we did not go. But there was a time when he definitely wanted to go back and settle in Israel – Palestine then of course.*



Muriel, Solomon, and Esther (left) and Muriel and Esther (right) (Jewler family)  
On vacation at Morningside Hotel in the Catskills, September 5, 1937



Solomon and Minnie Lutsky  
On vacation at Morningside Hotel in the Catskills, September 5, 1937 (Jewler family)



Employment commendation letter for Sol, March 1946 (Jewler family)

### *Stories About Minnie*

[Esther Jewler continuing] *Bubbe went to school when Muriel was old enough to go to kindergarten. She went to school to read, to learn how to spell, and to write. She could never understand why "bought" was spelled "b-o-u-g-h-t". She wanted to know why "bought" couldn't be spelled "b-a-w-t", period. Why do you need an "o-u-g-h" she asked. But she was very anxious to learn, very anxious to keep on top of things and she did. She did.*



Minnie (Garbus) Lutsky citizenship photograph, ca. 1937 (Jewler family)



Minnie on vacation at Morningside Hotel in the Catskills, September 5, 1937 (Jewler family)

*She made a living, always helping the family by taking in sewing, doing alterations, and she was extremely well thought of by all of her customers. People would stop me and say, "Are you Mrs. Lutsky's daughter?" and when I said yes, they'd say, "What a remarkable woman she is. She's so well informed, she's so up to date on everything, she can discuss everything, and her work of course is beautiful." So it was a nice legacy – two wonderful hardworking parents. Good people.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*Bubbe was always instrumental in speaking out about her Jewishness. I remember her breaking up a Communist meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 44<sup>th</sup> Street because someone was defending a loyalist in Spain and Bubbe suggested they help the Jewish wanderers on the boats that were not allowed in anywhere. When one woman suggested that they let them wander, Bubbe yelled and screamed and broke up the meeting. She had lots of support in the audience. The fire department was called out to wash down the streets to prevent a riot. I was very proud of her, really, the highlight of my young life, when I saw what she had done – all five feet of her.*

In May 1939, the S.S. St. Louis sailed from Germany, six months after the Kristallnacht pogrom in Germany. On board were 937 Jews with visas for Cuba. While the ship was in route, the Cuban government changed, and the new administration refused to honor the visas. The St. Louis remained docked in Havana harbor while Jewish organizations attempted to persuade the government to accept the passengers. At the same time, American Jews attempted to influence the U.S. government to accept the refugees, but to no avail. The St. Louis was forced to return to Germany. In the interim, several European countries, England, Belgium, Holland, and France, agreed to admit the passengers. Only those admitted to England survived the war. By 1940, the Nazis occupied the other countries.



SS St. Louis in port of Hamburg, Germany 1939 (Wikipedia)

### *Esther at High School*

*I ended up going to Thomas Jefferson High School, which was not the school I should have been going to only because my older sister Lilly was very determined that Jefferson was a better school. So I ended up going out of my neighborhood, away from my friends and I eventually did graduate from there.*

*The first year of high school though I was allowed to go to Washington Irving and follow a dress-designing course. But after the first year, Bubbe and Zayde told me that I had had my fun and to get busy and transfer to Brooklyn and take the shorthand, bookkeeping, and typing course because that was the way I was going to make my living. They knew that I could never go to college to take dress designing and that would be required to get a decent job anywhere doing that kind of work. There was no way I could go to college. I wanted to be a dress designer. That first year at Washington Irving was one of the most beautiful times in my life – I really had a wonderful time doing what I loved. But being creative could come later too – so it was no problem.*



Esther and her mother Minnie at Morningside Hotel in the Catskills, 1938 (Jewler family)

*So I learned shorthand. I thought there is a real art to that too – to be able to take down quickly what people say and be able to read it back. And I love typing because I like using my hands. Bookkeeping was a little difficult – I was never great in math but I love keeping good records so that was okay. I learned to see good in everything I had to do – even if I didn't like it, I learned to like it. If you want to be happy, that's what you have to do – learn to like difficult things or things that don't especially appeal to you.*

Esther graduated from high school in 1939 and took a job as bookkeeper in New York with Mr. Knuth in a bar supplies company. She earned \$10 per week for six days' work. Esther described Mr. Knuth as a difficult person to work for; he was constantly criticizing Jews in front of her. When the minimum wage was increased during her employment there, she waited two weeks for him to adjust her salary. When nothing happened, she asked him when her salary would be increased. His answer was: "If you don't tell anyone, then I won't either." At that point, she resolved to find other employment even though jobs were scarce.



Esther at Thomas Jefferson High School graduation, New York, 1939

Esther was able to secure a job for the summer of 1940 at a hotel in the Catskills. She gave Mr. Knuth one week's notice. He reacted angrily and reminded her that it was customary to give two weeks' notice when leaving a job. Esther responded with: "If you don't tell anyone, then I won't either." At the hotel, Esther earned \$50 for the summer plus a \$10 bonus. She also earned \$1 per letter translating Yiddish to English for hotel patrons.

In the fall of 1940, Esther took a job as bookkeeper in a hosiery company. She earned \$15 per week for five days' work.

*Eventually it [the shorthand] did come in handy because I did get a wonderful job with the government. It was during the war. People were very nice to me. They kept telling me that when the war is over I could come work for them. One of them was American Radiator and Standard Sanitary Company, one of the biggest plumbing and heating companies in the industry. I was invited to come to Boston and be the secretary up there, which of course I never did. But my shorthand came in very handy.*

## **Esther in Washington**

### ***Esther's Government Job***

*So, one day I decided I was going to take a test for the government, just to see if I could pass it. This was early in 1941, no, the summer of 1941. I took the test, schlepping an old manual typewriter to Lincoln High School. About ten days later, Bubbe called me at work to tell me I had a telegram from Washington offering me a job. So I said throw it away – I'm not interested. And she said, "Well, why don't we discuss it when you get home?" So when I got home we did discuss it and I felt that I knew no one in Washington, I was strictly kosher, and I was not about to change anything. I had what I thought was a good job -- \$15 a week for five days, which was considered good in those days. This is 1941.*



Esther on F Street in Washington, 1942 (Jewler family)

*So Bubbe went to what was known as a "fruit store" in Borough Park on Friday and mentioned to the owner that I was offered a job in Washington and that I was reluctant to go because I knew no one there. The man from the fruit store said, "That's amazing because one of my customer's sons is visiting from Washington and maybe he can talk to your daughter and tell her about Washington." Sure enough on Saturday, the young man came up, and asked for the person who got the telegram from Washington. When I answered the door, I was amazed. I had never seen him before, I never knew who he was, he had never seen me before -- and he offered to find me a place to live in a kosher boarding house, meet me at Union Station in Washington, take me to where I was going to be working, and show me around Washington – the Potomac and all the government buildings around there. Sure enough, this is exactly what he did.*

*I told my boss about it in New York. He reassured me that I was never going to like Washington and that he would hold my job for me for a month because he was so positive that I was going to come back. He said, "You're kosher and you're not going to be happy in Washington." I agreed that I would take that chance. So I went to Washington, and sure enough this young man met me at Union Station, showed me around Washington, took me to the kosher boarding house, and that was it. He deposited me at the door of this very nice place – my roommates were daughters of rabbis. I liked it right away. I liked the place I was working – I was working with nice people. Two weeks later I got a letter from my old boss offering me \$20 to come back because he was so sure I was not happy in Washington. I sent him a letter back reluctantly declining to return.*



Esther in Washington at 5th and K St. NW, November 1942 (Jewler family)

*So that's where my career in government took off. I went from a grade 2 at \$1,440 a year to a grade 3 and then 4 within six months, because it was wartime and I worked very hard. Of the girls in the office, I was the most experienced, coming from a job in New York where they came from business schools. Life was good except that the war was on. That was not so good.*

#### ***Esther and Sam Meet***

In October 1941, Esther moved to a kosher boarding house on Quincy Street in Washington D.C. In December of that year, she moved from the boarding house to a room let by Sam and Bessie Gruber, in their home at 1376 Sheridan Street N.W. Several months later in the summer of 1942, the Gruber family moved to a house at 315 Oglethorpe Street N.W. and Esther moved with them. During this period, Esther came to know the Gruber children Morris, Nat, Jean, Ida, and Vera, and began a friendship with the family that has lasted through the decades. The friendship between the families has also continued through the next generation of their children.



Esther on 44<sup>th</sup> Street in Brooklyn across from her apartment, 1944  
(Vera and Jerry Mendelson)



Esther on the roof in New York, 1944 (Jewler family)

## A Gruber Sister

Dear Esther,

Ever since I first met you in 1941 when you joined the Gruber household on Sheridan Street, NW in Washington, DC I have never considered you a friend! I have always considered you a sister like Jeanne and Ida. We shared a room. I shared my secrets with you. You listened, sympathized and advised. I didn't always listen but you were there for me anyway. Today, after so many years (can you believe its 60) you are still my sister and have even become my friend. Even though we don't see each other often you are always in my mind as I know I am in yours.

To stir up some memories I dug through a ton and a half of photos. (You know Jerry. He never throws anything away.) I am disappointed that there weren't more but I enjoyed the memories they stirred up. I hope you do too.

Happy birthday Esther. Let us continue to be sisters forever.

Vera Mendelson

PS -- As always Jerry is too shy and bashful to reveal the intimate details of your association with him so he has asked me to tell you that he loves you and cherishes those details as some of his fondest memories. My question is "what the hell memories is he talking about???"

V

The writer, Vera (Gruber) Mendelson, had been a friend of Esther's since they met in 1941 when Esther moved into Vera's parents' house as a boarder. At the time, Esther and Vera, who were in their early twenties, were roommates. Vera's husband, Jerry, was a friend of Esther (and Sam's) for nearly as long.

An Old Friend and Companion

My name is: Miriam (Mimi) Gruber

I have known Esther since: +60 years

My favorite "Esther" story is:

During the War (II) we lived at Sam & Bessie Gruber's home (my future in-laws at that time). Esther's room was right next to mine on the 2nd floor. We loved to spend time in each other's rooms talking. We would also go out together to the dances sponsored by the Army.

What I liked most about Esther was that she was very smart!

The writer, Mimi Gruber, was a friend of Esther's since they met at the Gruber house in the early 1940s. Mimi also lived at the Gruber house and eventually married Nat Gruber. Mimi and Esther were from the same neighborhood in Brooklyn and recognized each other when they met in Washington. Mimi died in 2001.

## Memories of Esther....Even Before

Yes, even before I was born, Esther was essential to me . . . in fact, she was life giving!

One day in February 1948, Esther asked my mom, Jean Kirson, to go with her to the barber. She was taking Lenny for a haircut and she anticipated a feisty little boy who would require four arms to keep him seated in the barber's chair. Indeed, Esther's anticipations proved correct. Lenny struggled and kicked, not wanting to part with his pretty locks. One of his kicks landed expertly, Kung Fu-like, on my mom's stomach, which was fully engorged with me inside. The next day, I was born! Thanks to Lenny and Esther, I never had to go to school on my birthday since it was the original George Washington's Birthday holiday!

That, of course, was a glorious beginning. But my special relationship with Esther has, happily, continued over the years of being with her and Sam and Lenny and Sarah in celebration of family events and holidays. She is, indeed, like family to me . . . a warm and easy-to-laugh and full-of-life woman to whom I wish the happiest of happiest of birthdays.

With my love,  
Tamara

The writer, Tamara Kirson, is the daughter of Jean (Gruber) Kirson who Esther met in 1941 at the Gruber household.

*How I met Dad was rather strange. I had put in a request for transfer back to New York because Bubbe realized she had lost her whole family in the war, Lilly was in New Jersey, and she felt that she was in desperate need of family around her due to the tragedy in Europe. So she prevailed on me to put in an application for a transfer back to New York, which I reluctantly did.*

*I was living with the Gruber family in Washington and one of their son-in-laws, Lou Goldstein, worked for Daddy in the store and was on leave from the Army. He said to me one day, "I'm going to introduce you to this Jewler guy." I thought he was going to introduce me to someone in the jewelry business. Instead it was Sam Jewler who had a grocery business.*

*It was a blind date. He came to the house to pick me up. It was a double date – someone who worked for him and Mimi Gruber. I really didn't plan on making any effort for this date because I knew I was going back to New York. He appeared older than I by a good bit and I showed no interest. But as time went on, he kept calling me two or three times a week to go out and I happened to like his wit, his manner, and his intelligence.*



Sam Jewler in his mid 20s, ca. 1930s (Jewler family)



Esther and Sam two months before  
marriage at Frances Footer's house  
on Dahlia St. Wash., D.C., March 1945



Esther and Sam one month after  
marriage at Frances Footer's house  
June 1945

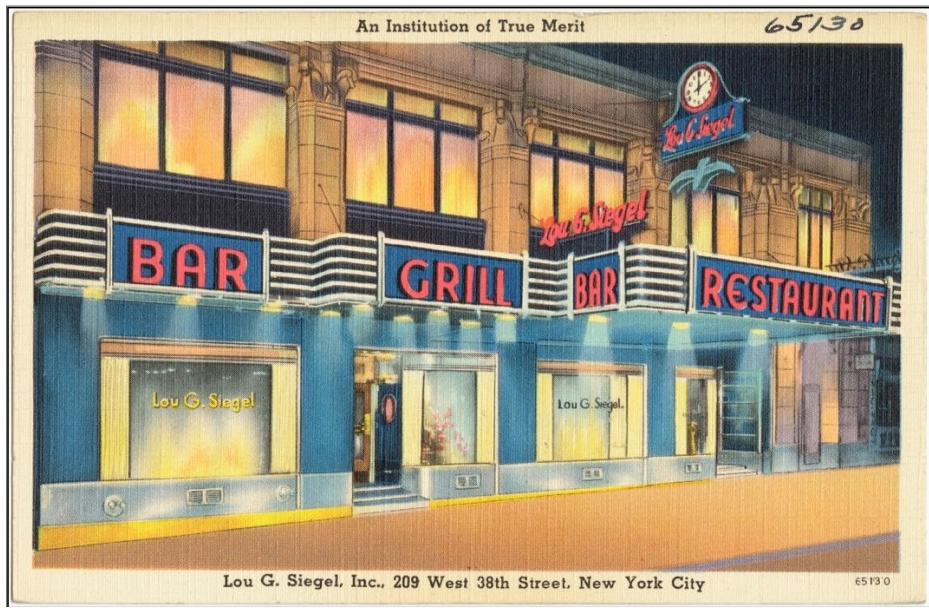


A picnic by the Potomac, summer 1946 (Vera and Jerry Mendelson)  
Esther, Sam and Muriel and friends Mimi and Vera Gruber



Esther and Sam at picnic, summer 1946 (Vera and Jerry Mendelson)  
Reverse of photo inscribed: "Sure love is blooming"

*He started coming to New York to date me after I transferred back. At midnight on Saturday, Daddy would take the train to New York. I would see him Sunday around noontime and we would walk around the sites of New York and then go have dinner. Of course it was a kosher restaurant. I almost don't remember the names of the restaurants any more. One was Lou G. Siegel. There were some others that were just wonderful but they are no longer there.*



Postcard of Lou G. Siegel restaurant in New York, 1940s (Digital Commonwealth)

*After dinner, he would ride the subway with me back home to my apartment where he would see Bubbe and Zayde. Then he would take the subway back to the railway station and the train back to Washington.*

*We only had a few hours together. Daddy's Bubbe [mother] was anxious for him to get married because she did not want him to come to New York as often as he was coming. She felt that the store needed him alert and full of energy, which he wasn't on Monday. [Laughing] So, it was not an easy courtship*



Esther and Sam at Solomon and Minnie Lutsky's house, Wash. DC, Sep. 1947 (Jewler family)

*Eventually we became engaged, in December of 1944. We were married in May of 1945 and I moved back to Washington and moved in with Daddy's parents at 18<sup>th</sup> and Irving Street N.W. This [living with the in-laws] was not the happiest of times in my life.*

\* \* \* \* \*

Four decades later in 1980, when I met my future wife, Andrea Rosen, in New York on a blind date, we chose Lou G. Siegel's restaurant for our first date. In a 1996 article, the New York Times stated, "it has been the Rick's Cafe American of the kosher set, a crossroads for garment center business deals, politics, matchmaking and schmoozing in an old-fashioned Jewish restaurant with the refinement of white tablecloths." The restaurant closed in 1996 after 79 years in business.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Introduction to Samuel M. Jewler**

Samuel Morris Jewler was born on August 15, 1909 in Kolk, Russia. At the time, Kolk was in the Pale of Settlement in the Volhynia Gubernia. (The area is located in what is now the northwestern Ukraine.) Sam was the first child of Max (Michel) Zuler and Sadie (Sussel) Barr. In Russia, Max was a blacksmith. After Sam was born, Max came to Detroit, Michigan, where he had relatives. When Sam was four years old, he traveled by steamship to America with his mother and joined his father in Detroit. (The ship manifest, obtained from the National Archives, indicated that they departed from Bremen, Germany on August 23, 1912 and arrived in Baltimore, Maryland on September 6, 1912. They traveled in steerage on the S.S. Rhein and carried \$10 with them.) In Detroit, Max bought a horse and sold *shmatte*s from a horse drawn wagon. In America, the family changed their name from Zuler to Jewler. (This occurred when Max's cousin, Benjamin, the first Zuler in America, was told when he arrived that if he kept the name Zuler, "he would always be last in line.")



Sam Jewler, ca. late 1920s (Jewler family)

They soon moved to Washington D.C., where Max had several cousins who had begun to open grocery stores. In Washington, Max initially drove a bakery truck. He then was assisted by the family in opening his own grocery store on 7<sup>th</sup> Street downtown. He later bought another grocery store at 2301 Champlain Street at the intersection with Kalorama Road. The family lived behind the business for several years. This store, Jewler's Champlain Market, supported the family until it was sold in 1970.

Sam entered elementary school in Detroit speaking no English. He soon proved himself capable – managing to skip two grades. In Washington he attended Central High School and graduated in 1927.



The Jewler and Barr Families in back of Jewler's Market, Wash. DC, Passover 1929 (Jewler family)  
From left: The Barr Family – Izzy Barr, Ida (Barr) Greenspon (Sadie's sister),  
Pina Barr, Max Greenspon,  
The Jewler Family – Abe, Frances, Sam, Nathan, Max, Sadie (Barr)

After high school, Sam began to attend the Benjamin Franklin School of Accounting. Because his father was having difficulty effectively managing the grocery store, he asked Sam to leave the school and help him run the store. Sam complied, left the school, and turned the store into a successful operation.



Sam Jewler at age 18, Wash. DC, 1927, (Jewler family)

Business improved and Max and Sadie moved from the store and bought a house at 1830 Irving Street N.W. They now had several more children: Frances (born 1913 in Detroit), Abe (born 1920 in Washington), and Nathan (born 1924 in Washington). When Abe and Nate became old enough, they joined Sam and Max in running Jewler's Champlain Market.



The Jewler Family at Irving Street House, Wash. DC, 1935 (Jewler family)

From left: Nathan Jewler, Sam Jewler, Max Jewler, Sadie Jewler,

Frances (Jewler) Footer, Irvin Footer, Abe Jewler

### *Esther and Sam Marry*

*We were married in New York at the Menorah Temple at 15th Avenue and 50th Street in Borough Park. It was just lovely; it was a beautiful afternoon wedding. It was close to the end of the war and there were very few young men there, but it was a nice wedding anyhow. Daddy and I had a two-day honeymoon, Monday and Tuesday, and we went back to Washington because we had left the store with strangers and it was very important that he get back.*



Menorah Temple now the Katz Building, New York, 2012 (NYC Ago)

*He was the only one running the store then. Uncle Nate and Uncle Abe were both in the service as well as Uncle Irv. Nate was in Hawaii, Abe was in the Philippines, and Irv was on his way over to Iwo Jima and other places in the Pacific. So none of them came to the wedding. But there were lovely telegrams from Nate, and from my grandmother in Israel, and it was done as well as it could be during the war.*



Esther and Sam Jewler's wedding, Brooklyn, New York, May 27, 1945 (Jewler family)

*We stayed at the Governor Clinton Hotel downtown in New York City. We saw some sites, took in a show; not too much of a honeymoon but the best we could do at the time.*



Family portrait - Esther and Sam Jewler's wedding May 27, 1945 (Jewler family)

Standing from left: Lillian (Lutsky) and Sydney Hersh, Muriel Lutsky,  
Esther and Sam Jewler, Frances (Jewler) Footer, Lenore (Schafer) Jewler

Seated from left: Solomon and Minnie Lutsky, Sadie and Max Jewler  
Children: Manny Hersh, Sheila Footer

## The Family in Washington

### *Esther and Sam's Early Years*

*Then when we came back from the honeymoon, we moved in on Irving Street. We could hear the animals roar from the Zoo at night because the windows were open since there was no air conditioning. I had a time adjusting to the diet of the Jewelers and the cooking. But we did the best we could under the circumstances.*



Left photo: Max and Sadie Jewler, Sam and Esther Jewler

Right photo: Sol and Minnie Lutsky, Muriel Lutsky, Sam and Esther Jewler  
On back porch of Max and Sadie Jewler's house on Irving Street, 1945 (Jewler family)

*By October or November of 1945, Rose Peres, a cousin, was wonderful enough to find us an apartment in Glover Park. [The apartment was on 42nd Street at W Street.] We were able to move in sometime in November and buy new furniture. Unfortunately, in December, we had to move back to the house with Bubbe and Zayde on Irving Street because Zayde developed prostate problems, which caused him to be at the hospital for quite a while. Daddy's Bubbe would not stay by herself so we had to move back in.*

*By February, we moved back to the apartment and were getting ready for the birth of our first child in May, Lenny. [Laughter] Frances swore that she was going to hear on the news that someone gave birth to a child at Hechts or Woodies downtown because I was always out shopping for the apartment and getting ready for the first baby. [Laughter] So it was an exciting time. But living in Glover Park I was very removed from family and friends. No one could get out there very well. It was a remote area of the city and it was hard for people to get to. But we made it eventually. Right after the birth of Barbara, our daughter, in May two years later, we moved into our house on 8th Street in Washington.*

Their first child, Leonard, was born on May 2, 1946. Their second child, Barbara, was born on May 18, 1948. That year they moved to a house at 7507 8<sup>th</sup> Street NW. Leonard was named *Eliezer Itzhak* in Hebrew in honor of Minnie Lutsky's maternal grandfather, Eliezer Matesky, and Samuel Jewler's paternal grandfather, Isaac Zuler. Barbara was named *Frumah Sarah* in Hebrew in honor of Minnie Lutsky's mother, Frumah Garbus, and Samuel Jewler's paternal aunt, Sarah Jewler.



Left: Sam, Esther, and Lenny (age several months) in Jefferson Street yard, 1946  
Right: Barbara (age 1) at 8<sup>th</sup> Street house, 1949 (Jewler family)

*In Glover Park, we had one car and I did not know how to drive. Daddy took the car to the store and that was the end of my getting out. It was horrendous leaving the area – we were at the bottom of two steep hills, either way you went you had to climb up a steep hill. One time I was foolhardy enough to put you into the carriage and push my way up. Half way up I was in a panic because I couldn't push anymore, and I couldn't let go. Lord only knows where I got the strength but I pushed you all the way to the top of the hill because that was better than letting the carriage go down. While I was walking around at the top of the hill, one of my neighbors in her car stopped and was aghast and said, "How in the world did you get up here with that carriage?" It's a good question. But I was desperate. You never saw a living soul during the day. It was terrible. So I eventually made my way back. God was with me – nothing happened to the wonderful cargo in the carriage. [Laughter]*



Sam and Lenny (age 18 months), Dec. 1947 (Jewler family)

*Dad worked long hours, so we did not see much of him. You were asleep before he got home, and you were asleep when he went to work. One time the laundry man came from the Elite laundry company and you took one look at him and yelled, "Daddy." [Laughter] It was not easy, not easy at all.*

*But it was wonderful once we moved to the house on 8th Street; there were lots of children your age and Barbara's. It was a close-knit community and we made lots of friends. It was a much better life – we saw people. You had a good life and consequently we did too, although Daddy's hours were still long and he was seldom home.*



Leonard (age 4) and Barbara (age 2), 1950 (Jewler family)



Leonard (age 6) and Barbara (age 4) at 8th Street house, 1952 (Jewler family)



Leonard (age 6) and Barbara (age 4)  
At Irving Street house of Max and Sadie Jewler, 1952 (Jewler family)

### *The Lutsky Family Moves to Washington*

*Bubbe and Zayde (Minnie and Sol Lutsky) moved to Washington because they felt that the family was scattered. Lilly lived in New Jersey, Bubbe and Zayde and Muriel lived in New York, and I lived in Washington. They felt that this would be a good opportunity, with Sidney and Zayde working for the government and having steady jobs. So they decided to move and they did. So that's how come they came to Washington and we were together for a while. Until Lilly and her husband and her family - who didn't get along with anybody - moved away.*

In the late 1930s, Lilly met and married Sydney Hersh. Sidney was an engineer with the government. On January 14, 1940, Lilly and Sidney had their first child Manny.

*I was married in May of 1945 and they moved to Washington in April of 1946. They bought the house on Jefferson Street with Lilly and Sidney. Bubbe and Zayde put in most of the money and Sidney and Lilly put in a small portion, but had a lot to say about everything. It was a very bad move on Bubbe and Zayde's part because it was useless to think that they would all get along. Lilly and Sidney were impossible always. Eventually they had to be paid out with a profit and they left.*

*They bought a house on Tuckerman Street and North Capitol, which was very similar to the house that Daddy and I bought on Eighth Street. There they had another child on Jefferson Street who died at 16 months of age from chickenpox. She was given aspirin, which was not known to be a hazard in those days, and she must have developed Reyes Syndrome. Her name was Dina. Eventually Lilly became pregnant again and had Elaine in December of 1948.*

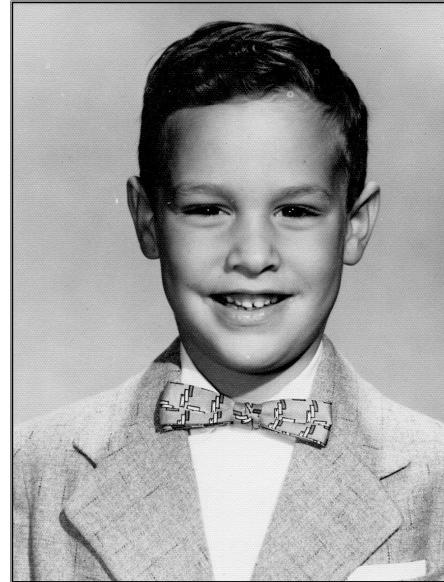
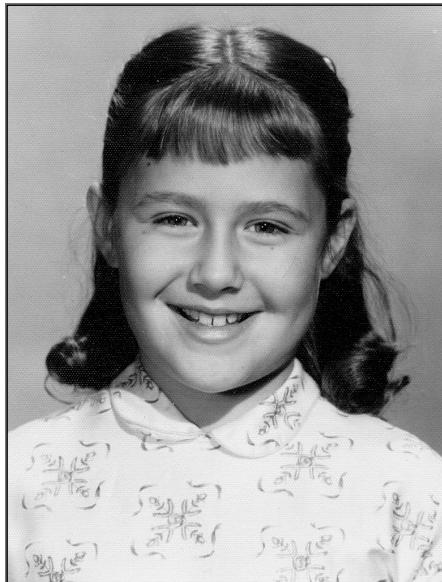


Manny Hersh (age 4), 1944 and Elaine Hersh (age 6), 1953 (dates estimated)

*Muriel married in June 1948 to Murray Berg. Susan was born a year later [on October 15, 1949] and then three years later Steve was born [on October 8, 1952] in Washington.*



Muriel and Murray Berg Wedding, June 1948



Susan Berg (age 9) and Steve Berg (age 6), December 1958

Muriel and Murray moved to a house on North Capital Street N.W., which was not very far from Lilly and Sidney's house on Tuckerman Street.

## The Memory Keeper

I have given a great deal of thought to my favorite Aunt Esther story, and despite a strong desire to produce one of witty repartee, it seems I cannot.

When I think of my Aunt Esther, I have so many memories - and yet - for a lifetime, not nearly enough. My aunt was my mother's older sister and best friend; she remains my favorite, dearest aunt. As a child growing up in Washington, D. C., Aunt Esther was an important figure in all of our lives. My mother consulted with her daily; weekly we went shopping and out to dinner. Unlike Aunt Esther's own children, (who were perfect) I always added a sense of adventure to our excursions. Whether it was checking out the mannequins' undergarment situation in Garfinkle's, or tickling the toes of unsuspecting (and pre-occupied) women in public ladies rooms, my aunt has dined out on these escapades for years --- and thank heavens! Without Aunt Esther to remind me of these and other stories, so many cherished childhood memories would be forgotten.

I also cannot think of Aunt Esther without recalling my dearest Uncle Sam. Truly, a sweeter man never lived! I can remember Sunday night dinners at the Hot Shoppes (fabulous chicken soup); Uncle Sam arriving home from work at the Champlain Market - arms brimming with groceries - and always cream soda. Uncle Sam may have run things at the store, but Aunt Esther ran a tight ship at home!

On her 80th birthday, as always, my aunt remains the exceptional woman she has always been. I am so pleased to be able to share these few moments of mine with others whose lives she has so generously and graciously touched.

The writer, Susan (Berg) Zuckerman, is the daughter of Esther's sister Muriel (Lutsky) Berg and Murray Berg. She lives in St. Louis, Missouri. Written in 2000.

## A Musical Clown

My name is Steve Berg. I am Esther's nephew and I've known her since I was a little, little boy. I have many fond memories of my Aunt Esther and the entire Jewler family - enough to fill many pages. But in the interest of time, I will relate just a couple of my favorite memories.

When I was growing up in Washington D.C., I remember visiting Aunt Esther, Uncle Sam, Lenny and Barbara (Sarah) many times. Although we were all family, it seemed to me that our families were also best friends. I was only 4 or 5 years old at the time (circa 1956), but I vividly remember one Saturday night that we all went bowling together. I had the greatest time. Lots of fun and laughter. When we finished, I was totally satisfied that this one of the greatest evenings of my young life. I thought that the evening was finished and that we were going home. But then, I was told that we were also going to the HOT SHOPPE FOR DINNER!!! This was an awesome turn of events. Here I was thinking how great of an evening this was and then I am surprised to find out that we also get to go to my favorite restaurant for dinner (the cream of chicken soup was the BEST!). Life just didn't get any better than that.

Fast forward to 1990. My first daughter, Rebecca, is born. Soon after, Aunt Esther sends us a beautiful baby gift. It is a music box shaped like a little clown head and after you wind it up, the clown head turns as it plays the music. Of all of the baby gifts we received, this became the most special to Becky (and eventually, Emily). Every night at bedtime (for several years) she fell asleep listening to her musical clown from Aunt Esther. We listened to it so much that I eventually made up words to go with the melody and sang to her every night until she would fall asleep. Soon after my second daughter, Emily, was born, I asked Becky if she would allow Emily to "borrow" the clown so that she, too, could enjoy it. After protracted negotiations, Becky finally allowed me to move the clown to Emily's room. She too, fell in love with Aunt Esther's clown and the entire cycle repeated itself (except that I had to change the words of my song from Becky to Emily). Emily is now eight years old and she still loves to listen to the clown at bedtime. While every other baby gift or toy has long since gone by the wayside, my daughters still love and appreciate the musical clown they got from their Aunt Esther.

Aunt Esther, you have always been the most wonderful person (and always my FAVORITE Aunt). I hope you had the most wonderful Birthday and we can't wait to visit Washington D C. next year (do you still have Hot Shoppe's??).

Love,  
Steve

The writer, Steve Berg, was the son of Esther's sister Muriel (Lutsky) Berg and Murray Berg. When he wrote this, he lived in San Diego, California with his wife, Kristi, and daughters, Emily and Rebecca. Sadly, Steve passed away on May 30, 2013. Written in 2000.

*It was wonderful when Bubbe and Zayde were able to move to Washington and for the first time in their lives buy a house on Jefferson Street. Zayde was working for the government and Bubbe was taking in sewing. One of the rooms was rented out to boarders. They had two people living in the house -- they became friends. It was a very good relationship with whatever boarders came into the house. Zayde was able to fix up the basement, being the wonderful carpenter that he was. He made a separate apartment down there and that helped them pay off their mortgage.*



Minnie Lutsky on porch at Jefferson Street house, Wash. DC, latter 1940s (Jewler family)

*So there was a period when all three of the sisters were in Washington. However, there were very few family get-togethers with all of us. Lilly and Sidney were always difficult, and it was never a pleasant get-together. But Muriel and Murray and Daddy and I had a very congenial time together. We got along very well. We shared holidays, birthdays, whatever. It was a sad time for me when they moved to St. Louis.*

As of April 1946, all of the Lutsky family was located in Washington D.C. Esther and Muriel's young families met frequently with each other and with Sol and Minnie. There was decreasing contact with Lilly and her family as the conflicts increased. Sundays were a time for the families to make the pilgrimage to Jefferson Street to visit Bubbe and Zayde. Holidays were spent at their dining room table.



Lutsky Family at Jefferson Street house, Wash. DC, December 1949 (Jewler family)

From left: Lilly, Elaine, and Manny Hersh, Murray Berg, Muriel (Lutsky) Berg, Solomon and Minnie Lutsky, Esther and Sam Jewler, Barbara and Leonard Jewler



Lutsky Family at Jefferson Street house, Wash. DC, Thanksgiving 1949 (Jewler family)

From left: Murray Berg, Unknown, Muriel Berg, Minnie Lutsky, Lilly Hersh, Manny Hersh, Solomon Lutsky, Unknown, Elaine Hersh, Sidney Hersh, Esther, Barbara, Leonard and Samuel Jewler



Sol and Minnie with grandchildren at Jefferson Street house, ca. 1954 (Jewler family)  
From left: Steve Berg, Sol Lutsky, Susan Berg,  
Minnie Lutsky, Leonard Jewler, Barbara Jewler



Lutsky, Jewler, and Berg families at Berg residence, 1953 (Jewler family)  
From left: Murray and Muriel Berg, Steve Berg, Sol and Minnie Lutsky,  
Esther and Sam Jewler, Susan Berg, Leonard and Barbara Jewler

Susan Berg Zuckerman recounts her memories of the early years growing up in Washington, DC.<sup>66</sup>

One week before my third birthday my parents "surprised" me by bringing home a new baby brother. I had not been consulted and as the undisputed princess of the household, I was not pleased. Steven was a chubby baby with squinty brown eyes and wisps of curly hair, whom my mother thought was perfect; a feeling she unflaggingly maintained for the rest of her life. My father bought Steven a baseball bat the moment he was born, determined his son would be an exemplary athlete. And he was.

The first time I remember Steven picking up his bat was when he was three years old. I was outside our Washington, D.C. duplex on North Capitol Street playing jump rope with my best friend, Sandy, when her big sister, Francine, grabbed our rope away! Steven heard our cries of dismay and knew just what to do. He found his bat - which was approximately the same height he was - and dragged it outside. With all his strength, he managed to hit Francine over the head with it! It was the first time he came to my rescue, but not the last. Despite our opposite personalities and the ability to disagree about almost everything, when the dust settled, we were always standing firmly by each other's side. Years later, I continue to miss his love, loyalty and strength!

As memory serves, living in Washington, even in a cramped, unairconditioned duplex, was wonderful. Our mother's beloved parents, Bubby and Papa [Minnie and Sol Lutsky], lived close by at 232 South Jefferson Street and her sister, Aunt Esther Jewler and her family, Uncle Sam and cousins, Lenny and Sarah/Barbara, were nearby on 8<sup>th</sup> Street. Our mothers were not only sisters, but best friends, so Steven and I were fortunate to be surrounded by loving family all the time. Our own mother may have been incredibly demanding, but our grandparents were nothing of the sort. As grandchildren, we were loved and adored, and we had many wonderful times together. Regarding our cousins, despite our being younger, Lenny and Barbara, (clearly the coolest people we knew) were always so kind and patient with us. Especially when they had to get dressed up in Halloween costumes for Steven's and my joint birthday parties! Our father had tragically lost almost all of his immediate and extended family in World War II and welcomed and loved our mother's family as his own.

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<sup>66</sup> Susan Berg Zuckerman, *A Sister's Journal*, October 3, 2019



Lutsky, Jewler, and Berg families at Jewler residence, Wash. DC, 1954 (Jewler family)  
From top left: Esther Jewler, Minnie Lutsky, Steve Berg, Sol Lutsky, Muriel & Murray Berg  
From bottom left: Sam Jewler, Barbara & Lenny Jewler, Susan Berg

Our families had dinner together every Sunday, at The Hot Shoppes, one of our favorites. Our father, the sports enthusiast, took Steven and Lenny to baseball games, while Barbara and I accompanied our mothers on shopping trips to downtown DC, requiring a bus ride and white gloves. According to family lore, I was occasionally a little too spirited. I frequently looked under mannequins' dresses declaring at the top of my voice, "they're not wearing panties," and crawled on all fours in public ladies' rooms, tickling the toes of unsuspecting women!

I also have fond memories of family summer vacations to the Catskills and the shore. I have a photo of one of those trips in which my father and Uncle Sam, hands on hips, are standing firmly on the sand with the ocean waves coming in fast behind them and wearing matching bathing suits! They were white with navy horseshoes. Our mothers had probably found them on sale at Hecht's and somehow thought it was a terrific idea for grown men to have matching suits. They were such good sports to actually wear them!

\* \* \* \* \*

In the early and mid 1950s, there were birthday parties for the young cousins and other celebrations, which included the whole family. This continued until 1956 when Muriel and Murray and their children moved to St. Louis, Missouri.

*Through a career change, Murray had to move to St. Louis. Muriel and the children had to go also, of course. So they moved in 1956, I believe, to St. Louis.*



Lutsky, Jewler, and Berg families in Berg rec room, ca. 1954 (Jewler family)

From left: Sol Lutsky, Steve Berg, Leonard and Barbara Jewler,  
Muriel and Murray Berg, Minnie Lutsky, Esther Jewler, Susan Berg



Lutsky, Jewler, and Berg families in Jewler rec room, ca. 1954 (Jewler family)

From left: Leonard Jewler, Susan Berg, Minnie and Sol Lutsky,  
Barbara Jewler, Steve Berg (seated)

### *The Berg Family Moves to St. Louis*

Susan Berg Zuckerman describes her family's life after moving from Washington, DC to St. Louis in 1956.<sup>67</sup>

Despite what I considered to be an idyllic life in Washington, everything changed when I was 7 and Steven was 4. Our father, a cartographer with the Defense Mapping Agency, received a promotion which required us to pull up stakes and head to the Midwest. Our father flew out first to get "the lay of the land" and our mother, Steven and I were to follow. It was 1956 and we were pretty excited about our first plane ride! Unfortunately, I must have overindulged my sweet tooth and as we were starting our descent into our new life in St. Louis, I started throwing up! Steven, ever the problem solver, took off his seat belt and started running up and down the aisle shouting, "Susie is throwing up! Help, my sister is throwing up!" The flight attendants were already strapped in, I was vomiting, Steven, always an excellent runner, was elusive and our mother was mortified! Welcome to St. Louis!

We spent the first two years in a small, unairconditioned apartment in Brentwood until our new home was ready in Creve Coeur. It was 1959 and we would live there until 1968. In hindsight, it provided a lifetime of mostly very happy memories which would forever shape our lives.

We moved to Park West, a newly built middle-class subdivision of tract homes, filled with families and children. My mother loved having a dishwasher for the first time, and Steven and I were thrilled we no longer had to share a bedroom! It did not take long to assimilate, and Steven and I loved the kids in our neighborhood, where we made lifelong friends. It was 1959 and we ran or biked everywhere! We played softball in the streets after dinner and camped out in each other's backyards. It was the very best of times.

In 1967, I left for college and at the end of the term, came home to find our parents getting divorced. In the moment, this was devastating for Steven and me. No one we knew was divorced and it was confusing, embarrassing and heartbreakingly for us. Steven asked me to please stay in St. Louis as he planned to live with our father, and he suggested I live with our mother. My mother kept (and subsequently sold) our home, leaving Steven and Murray to find an apartment that was in the Parkway Central school district so Steven would not have to change schools. At Parkway Central, Steven continued to prove himself an exceptional athlete, primarily in football and baseball. Our father, his biggest fan, always volunteered to help coach.

Steven also proved to have excellent leadership qualities, handily winning Student Council elections, Class President, Boy's State, Scholar Athlete, Captain of several sports teams, Most Likely to Succeed and the list goes on! Of course, being handsome and incredibly nice, did not hurt! I know this to be true, as I was no beauty in high school and we always referred to Steven as "the pretty one!"

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<sup>67</sup> Ibid.

Steven continued his baseball prowess right into college at Truman State University, well-known for their winning baseball teams. Unfortunately, when he did not make the varsity team as a sophomore, he lost interest in school. The Colonel [his father, Murray] did not take this well and went to visit Steven to discuss this. Before the weekend was over, Steven was no longer enrolled in school, but in the U.S. Army! Our mother was furious, but our father remained confident this was just what Steven needed. And he was right. In the two years Steven served his country, he once again, rose to the top of the ranks. He then returned to Truman where he maintained a 4.0 GPA!



Steve and Susan Berg as Steve enters college, 1970

### *Sam and Jewler's Champlain Market*

*Daddy worked six days a week and until midnight on Saturday. Usually he left around 6:30 in the morning and got home around 9:30 at night. After a while, when all three brothers were setup in the business, it was worked out that each one of them would take an afternoon off and one evening. So Daddy's time off was Tuesday afternoon and his early time off was around 7:00 on Thursday night. But the rest of the week was very difficult.*

Jewler's Champlain Market was run by the family for over 30 years, from the 1930s until 1970 when it was sold. During that time, it supported Max and Sadie Jewler and the three Jewler brothers – Sam, Abe, and Nate – and their families. Eventually, Nate left the business and opened his own grocery store elsewhere. Also, in the later years, Frances's husband, Irv, sold his grocery store and worked at Jewler's market.

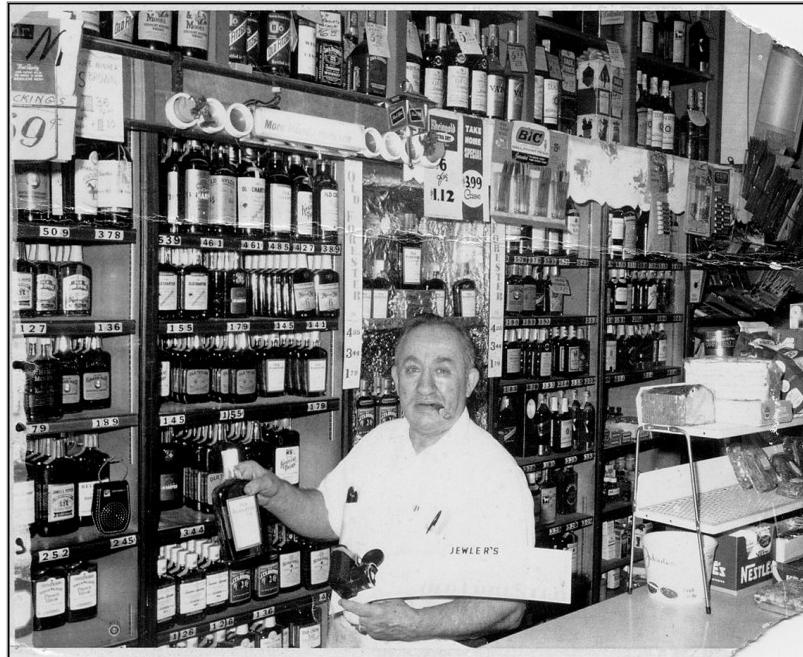


Jewler's Champlain Market, Wash. DC, 1967 (Jewler family)

Beginning as teenagers, Abe's son, Kenny, and Sam's son, Lenny, worked at Jewler's Market. There they first learned about personal sacrifice and the "Jewler work ethic." The young helpers spent the day hauling boxes from the basement to stock shelves, cutting meat, and assisting customers. As they got older, they graduated to serving customers at the liquor counter and working the cash registers.

It should be noted that there were *no chairs* at Jewler's Champlain Market. The only chair there was in the office. You had 5 minutes to eat lunch and sit down. Beyond that you were on your feet from 7:00 in the morning until 9:00 at night.

*Then you know the story; you know the work ethic of the Jewlers. Earning a living was very difficult.*



Sam Jewler at Jewler's Market, Wash. DC, 1960s (Jewler family)

### Reminiscences

by Leonard Jewler and Kenny Jewler

There was an on-going problem at the store with shoplifting. The family was always on the lookout for theft. There was one memorable incident told by the brothers. A patron entered the store with a specially designed shoplifting coat – it had numerous pockets sewn on the interior side for stolen goods. Max observed the patron secretly loading his pockets with eggs. When the patron came to the register to buy an inexpensive item, Max confronted him about the items that he was attempting to steal. The patron became indignant and denied the charge. Max then approached him and quickly patted down the surface of the coat breaking the eggs secreted in the pockets.

There were also more serious incidents of theft at the store. Following several armed robberies, the family decided to keep a handgun in the store for protection. It was kept loaded below the liquor counter between the two cash registers. One day a customer entered, drew a gun on Abe Jewler and Max Tuckman (a friend of the family who worked in the store), and demanded money from the registers. Abe and Max told him he could have the money and asked him to stay calm. The perpetrator responded by firing a shot between them, so they ducked behind the counter. He then reached over and fired behind the counter striking Abe in the right forearm. Abe got angry and reached for the gun with his left hand and began returning fire. As he was right-handed and not experienced in gun use, his aim was not very good. He fired off three shots, one of which struck a can of okra. The perpetrator fled empty handed. He was never caught in spite of Kenny Jewler canvassing the neighborhood inquiring about his identity.

In April 1968, urban riots erupted across America following the assassination of Martin Luther King. Jewler's Market, which had been an integral part of the community for many years, was one of the targets in the riots. Many people in the neighborhood confessed that although they loved Sam personally, they were at a loss to prevent the angry crowds from attacking the store.



Jewler's Market following April 1968 urban riots (Jewler family)  
Irv Footer (left) and Abe Jewler (right) in front of boarded up entrance



Jewler's Market following April 1968 urban riots (Jewler family)  
Butcher case (left), vegetable display (center), and canned goods (right)

### *The House on Eighth Street*

As stated earlier, Esther and Sam moved, in 1948, from the apartment in Glover Park to a new house at 7507 8<sup>th</sup> Street N.W. near the intersection with Hemlock Street. Leonard had been born two years earlier and Barbara was born just prior to the move. Over the years, Esther's father, Sol, made many improvements to the house. He built the vestibule at the entrance, several storage cabinets, and a complete recreation room in the basement out of knotty pine. The family stayed in the house for 16 years until 1964.

Sam and Esther chose to buy their first house in what turned out to be a dream post-war neighborhood. Nearly everyone on both 8th and 9th Streets was starting their families at the same time as Esther and Sam. Consequently, there were children everywhere. In the summers, there were nightly games of dodge ball. At dusk all the mothers would call for their children to come home. That was after the Good Humor ice cream truck had come by with its bell ringing and we had had our treat. There were hordes of children riding their bikes together in the streets or roller-skating down the sidewalks. On July 4th, everyone would be out in front of their houses with fireworks. During snowstorms there would be sledding on Hemlock Street and snowball fights everywhere, including around whatever fabulous Buick the family had that year. On the empty lot behind the house, there were miniature golf courses and forts to be built by Leonard and his childhood friend Richard Bordow. Most importantly, there were life-long friends to be made.



Minnie and Sol Lutsky with Leonard and Barbara (Jewler family)  
at 8<sup>th</sup> Street house, Wash. DC, 1949



Leonard and Barbara at 8th Street house, Wash. DC (Jewler family)  
Left: back porch; right: front lawn with Sally, the housekeeper, 1949

There was a modest back yard at the 8<sup>th</sup> Street house. There was a clothesline in the center for hanging laundry. The side along the walkway to the alley was planted with flowers including Esther's favorite – irises. A plastic swimming pool was set up in the summer when Leonard and Barbara were young. Sometimes badminton was set up in the yard.



Esther hanging laundry in back yard of 8th Street house, 1954 (Jewler family)



Badminton in back yard of 8th Street house, 1955 (Jewler family)  
Rear: Murray and Steve Berg; front: Susan Berg and Barbara Jewler

A Talainer and a Shiksa

My name is: Anne & Herby Fiefer

I have known Esther since: 1948

My favorite "Esther" story is:

It was about the year 1948 when Father's mother was shopping in the favorite butcher shop of Mornoff & Pritt when she met up with Mr. Fiefer (my father) who worked there, and their was one of the customer's favorite persons. My father asked Mrs. Lutsky how everyone was and what was new, etc. Esther had recently moved to 8th Street and her mother continued to tell Mr. Fiefer that the house next to her daughter (Esther) was just purchased and it looked like a "TALAINER" and a "SHIKSA" were moving in!!! (an italican and gentile) My father got a big kick out of that because it turned out to be us - Herby and Anne Fiefer.

Consequently Esther and all our family have known each other for over 50 years and we are neighbors and best friends once again.

Sincerely,  
Anne & Herby

The writers, Anne and Herby Fiefer, were next-door neighbors on 8<sup>th</sup> Street and shared a common wall in their semi-detached houses. Both families moved into their houses in 1948.



The Jewler family at Passover, Wash. DC, 1952 (Jewler family)



Esther with Leonard (age 8), 1954, and Barbara (age 8), 1956 (Jewler family)  
At 8<sup>th</sup> Street house, Wash. DC

## Pedro, the Latin Tush Man

My name is: Etta Cohen

I have known Esther since: 1960

My favorite "Esther" story is:

One of the stories that comes to mind is our unforgettable dance class. On Sunday afternoon we'd meet to have a dance lesson with "Pedro" the "Latin Tush man". Do you remember, by his own admission, he had the hots for any woman who had a plump derriere? Lemora of course was his favorite. I often watched to see how far south his hand would go when she needed "extra help". I'm sure she felt like the queen of "Dirty Dancing". The other thing I remember is having to go to Beth and Al Kahn's house to practice with them. Shep and I would get on our hands and knees and move Beth's feet around to the beat of one, two, Cha Cha Cha. Good thing nobody ever asked us to be in a dance contest.

Happy birthday dear friend.

Etta

The writer, Etta Cohen, met Esther and Sam through her husband, Shep, who was the accountant for Jewler's Champlain Market for many years. The two couples were part of a larger group of friends that took dance lessons with "Pedro".

Sam preferred the Buick line of automobiles. They were substantial, dependable, and had an aura of affluence. The family owned a succession of Buicks over the years.

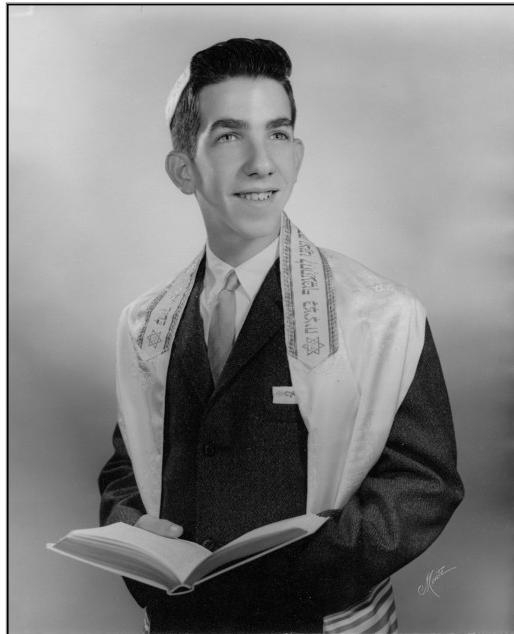


Snowfall on 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Wash. DC, 1956 (Jewler family)  
Leonard and Barbara second and third from left; family Buick in foreground



Sam and Leonard (age 14) loading Buick on 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Wash. DC, 1960 (Jewler family)

On May 9, 1959, Leonard had his bar mitzvah at B'nai Israel synagogue in Washington, D.C. Leonard had a double bar mitzvah with his close friend Alan Green. They each conducted part of the Shabbat service. A reception was held the next evening, May 10, in the Eig Auditorium of the synagogue.



Leonard at his bar mitzvah, Wash. DC, May 1959 (Jewler family)



The Jewler family at Leonard's bar mitzvah, Wash. DC, 1959 (Jewler family)  
From left: Barbara, Sam, Esther, and Leonard



The Lutsky family at Leonard's bar mitzvah, 1959 (Jewler family)  
From left: Sam and Esther Jewler, Solomon and Minnie Lutsky, Muriel and Murray Berg



The Jewler family at Leonard's bar mitzvah, 1959 (Jewler family)  
From left, back to front: Abe and Lenore Jewler, Nate and Rhoda Jewler,  
Max and Sadie Jewler, Sam and Esther Jewler, Irv and Frances Footer

*We stayed in the house on 8<sup>th</sup> Street for 16 years and would have stayed longer if the school situation hadn't become so difficult. Because you [Lenny] insisted on finishing at Coolidge, Barbara finished her first year at Coolidge and then we had to move. I tried to pay Montgomery County to take her without moving, to allow her to attend school there but they refused because the school was so overcrowded. There was a mass exodus from Washington to Montgomery County so we had to move. That's when we decided to rent the house because Zayde had put so much work into it – the lovely rec room, the pantry, and the porch that we added – the house was made very comfortable. We felt that if we rented, if we wanted to come back we could. So we ended up moving to Maple Avenue in Takoma Park and Barbara went off to Montgomery Blair High School and you went off to Carnegie Tech.*

*We lived in the house for 16 years and then it was rented for 16 years to various people who heard about its availability. That's how desirable the house was, with all the wonderful work that Zayde had put into it and the beautiful curtains that Bubbe had sewed for it. So it was a family effort that made the house look so nice. Do you have fond memories of growing up there?*

Len: Yes, it was wonderful.

*Well, you made nice friends, life-long friends from the neighborhood.*

Len: And we got a chance to build various forts in the field behind the house.

*Right, it was a good childhood there; and the fact that you both excelled so well in school made it just a happy place.*

Len: It was a wonderful neighborhood. We should do so well in our own life with our own children.

*Well, let's hope so. One never knows. One takes a chance whenever they buy and hope for the best.*

## The Three Musketeers

Esther, being a mom of the three musketeers, was always an important figure for me. Firstly, I knew that if Lenny was to do anything, he had to clear it with Esther and this was no easy task. I remember Esther with sunglasses. I remember Esther in that great old Buick. I remember Esther at Lenny's and my Bar Mitzvah with that wry smile and that pride that she took in Lenny and the family in general. I remember Esther trying her best at all times to make sure her house was in order. And now, you have achieved another milestone. I hope you know that you have succeeded in the most fundamental and basic way that we can, as human beings: that is, you allowed your children to become who they are in as many ways as possible. And what a joy that is!!

I wish I could be there to celebrate with you. Unfortunately, I can't, but my wish for you is that you can always look at your life and feel happy and satisfied with all you have done. I saw you up close for many years and watched you put all your energy into everything that you did.

My best wishes and love always,

Alan Green

The writer, Alan Green, has been a friend of Leonard's and his family since they met in first grade in 1952. Alan and Leonard had a joint Bar Mitzvah. Alan is an antique dealer (of dolls and toys) and jazz pianist who lives in Ossining, New York.

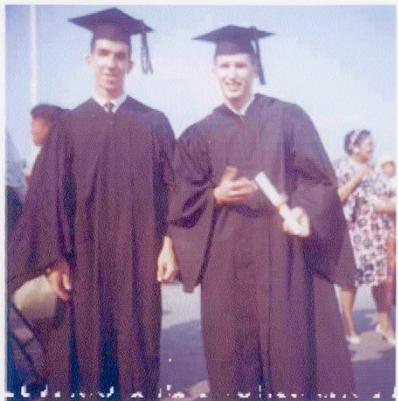
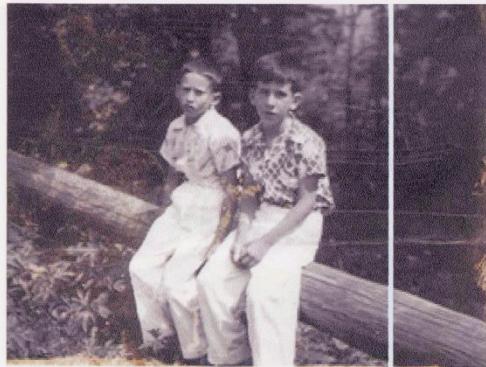


The Three Musketeers after 50 years, 2000 (Leonard Jewler)

From left: Len, Richard Bordow, and Alan Green

The three friends were together constantly in childhood  
and were known as "the three musketeers".

## The Eighth and Ninth Street Family



Dear Esther:

There are so many wonderful stories and events that have forever intertwined our families beginning way back on that first day of kindergarten when Lenny and I met. Each of the following should evoke at least a few minutes of memories and a laugh:

Walking to school everyday for 7 years and meeting Lenny on the corner at 8<sup>th</sup> and Juniper.

All of our after school activities including, but definitely not limited too:

- a) building our own telegraph system between our houses
- b) starting several miniature golf courses and other enterprises.
- c) Camp Airy, Cub Scout meetings, and going to the drug store and later on, to the Hot Shoppes!

Thank you for being part of that great family of 8th and 9th street that provided so many wonderful surrogate parents and taught us all so much about the real world and....

**Happy Happy 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday!**

**Love, Liz, Richard, and David Bordow**



The writer, Richard Bordow, has been a friend of Leonard's and his family since they met in kindergarten in 1951. Richard and his family lived one block away from the Jewlers on 9<sup>th</sup> street. Richard is a pulmonary doctor and software entrepreneur who lives in San Francisco, California with his wife Liz.

## The Embodiment of a Mom

Sarah (Barbara) and I were, for some unfathomable reason, CHOSEN by Takoma Elementary School's feared principal to be the art committee. We were assigned the task of preparing a large hall bulletin board with valentine decorations. I had no idea of what to produce or where to begin. With trepidation I gazed at the infinite blank, which was my mind.

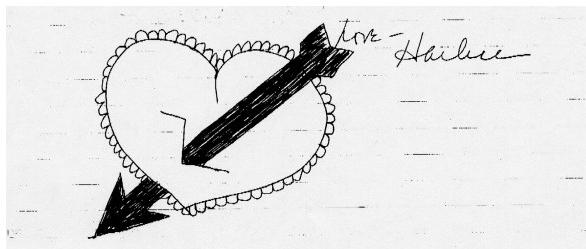
The day our design was due, Sarah pulled from her desk a magnificent heart drawn on tracing paper by certainly a world-renowned artist of optical illusions – Esther Jewler. I was in awe of this valentine and the technical expertise that made it appear as if cupid's arrow had actually pierced the heart. Had I been able to access some creative pool within, I could never come up with an idea that would contribute to or enhance this perfect Valentine's Day expression. I hadn't suspected Esther of such great artistic talent.

I was so impressed with Esther's heart that I immediately pulled paper and pencil from my desk and meticulously copied it. The guilt from having stolen her art has faded over the years. I have used this pierced heart countless times. Last Valentine's day I drew it for my children and they were as impressed and tickled as I was back in third grade.

Esther: thank you for this piece of love and beauty. I think of you every February 14! Thank you for raising Sarah—my longest, most enduring best friend.

*Happy 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.* I wish you everything you wish for and all the joy your heart can hold.

Extra: She was to me the embodiment of a Mom. She cooked dinner daily and swept the kitchen floor each evening after dinner. The keen memory of the Jewler floor cleaning inspires me to this day, causing Rob to erroneously label me compulsive. Esther permanently curled Sarah's hair. She has a beautiful, high bell-like voice and was always interested and in good humor. She was always home and available. She made tuna salad with Hellman's rather than Miracle Whip.



The writer, Harlene Cohen, has been a friend of Barbara's and her family since they met in kindergarten in 1953. Harlene and her family lived one block away from the Jewlers on 9<sup>th</sup> street. Harlene runs a real estate agency and lives in Bethesda, Maryland.

## Later Years of Sam and Esther's Family

### *Esther and Sam*

In 1964, Esther and Sam moved from their house on 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Washington to a three-bedroom apartment at Park View Towers, which was located in Takoma Park, Maryland. The house on 8<sup>th</sup> Street was rented to tenants. Leonard graduated from Coolidge High School and entered college at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, to study electrical engineering and computer science. Barbara transferred from Coolidge High School and entered her junior year at Blair High School. In 1966, Barbara graduated from Blair High School and entered George Washington University in Washington. In order to afford tuition payments for two children in college, Esther returned to working for the government at the Labor Department.

After 46 years of marriage, Solomon Lutsky died of esophageal cancer in 1962. The following year, Minnie traveled on her own to Israel and visited her two brothers, Nisson and Shmuel, who she had not seen since fleeing Lahishyn in 1913. Minnie soon moved from her house on Jefferson Street to Park View Towers. There she was able to be closer to Esther and her family. She was also able to socialize with the many tenants in the building and earn some extra income as a seamstress.

*We moved to Park View Towers in Takoma Park. Bubbe also moved there and had a very nice apartment. She said it was almost like living in a very pretty hotel with a beautiful lobby and a swimming pool. In fact, Bubbe was so friendly with everybody that she made friends with the lifeguard even though she didn't swim, and she would often bring him lunch – blintzes and sandwiches because he was such a nice young man. We enjoyed the pool, it was comfortable living.*

*From there, after Barbara was ready to graduate from Blair, Daddy and I discussed our financial situation and realized that we couldn't support two children in college unless I went to work. So that's what happened. I returned to work and ended up with a job with the Department of Labor downtown. I paid back my retirement from my previous service and worked for 20 years altogether until I was eligible to retire in 1982.*



Esther at the Labor Department, Wash. DC, 1973 (Jewler family)

*It was not only necessary that I go back to work, but it was a good deal that I did because I met wonderful people and ended up with one boss for 14 years, which is rare in government. I made steady progress in salary – I went in at grade 5 and came out at the top of a grade 9, which was very nice. I developed good relationships – lots of good friends that I still have here in Leisure World. So, it started out to be difficult, but it ended up being very pleasant.*

The Protector

My name is:

Jesse Rubin

I have known Esther since:

April 1970

My favorite "Esther" story is:

My days at the Labor Department working with Len Wallerstein and our trusted and loyal secretary, Esther, was among my happiest during a long (too long!) Federal career. Esther was always there for us, a loyal, capable, trusted co-worker. She always was there protecting our interests.

When the wife of a friendy mine called the office and slyly told Esther that she was my girlfriend, Esther refused to put the call through to me until my friend admitted that it was a joke.

Esther, you were always more than a co-worker, you were a dear friend. Carole and I wish you the happiest of birthdays. Stay well!!.

The writer, Jesse Rubin, was Esther's manager at the Labor Department beginning in 1970.

## The Sunshine Fund

*My name is Joan Rind. I have known Esther for approximately 30 years. We met while working at the Department of Labor and have kept in touch since her retirement, 18 years ago, through our exchanges of birthday and holiday greetings. I am particularly grateful for the opportunity to participate in her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.*

*I have very fond memories of Esther and our days working together at DOL. I especially enjoyed our time together at the Office of Federal Labor-Management Relations. Esther had put in a good word for me with the agency head, Louis Wallerstein, and he subsequently selected me as the agency's Management Officer. Esther was officially Mr. Wallerstein's secretary, but she was so much more than that to so many of us. As Lou's right hand woman, Esther was responsible for a number of "special" projects. Two of my favorites come readily to mind when I think of Esther -- the "Sunshine Fund" and "Office Celebrations".*

*As the primary "fiduciary" of the Sunshine Fund, Esther would collect and record the payments of all of FLMR's headquarters staff on a regular basis. As anyone who has ever been responsible for collecting money surely knows, it can be a time-consuming and frustrating process. Esther always arrived at our desks with a smile and a friendly word on these occasions and I often thought the title of the fund epitomized Esther herself because she was always full of sunshine even under the most trying circumstances.*

*In addition to the Sunshine Fund, Esther served as the chief hostess for all of our office gatherings. She and Maria Millar organized most of the office celebrations, and in all of the occasions that I can recall, Esther spent many hours of her own time baking goodies for us to enjoy - and we did!*

*I am particularly grateful to Esther for making my days with FLMR most enjoyable. Her work ethic and dedication to the mission of the agency were exemplary. Her good humor and willingness to help others made her not only a valued co-worker, but a cherished friend. In my 33 years of Federal service, I have met only a few people of Esther's caliber.*

*Esther, I would like to extend my very, very best wishes to you on your 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. I hope you have a wonderful year full of many good times and happy memories. Happy Birthday!*

*With much love,  
Joan*

*P.S. When I told George Baily, a co-worker of Esther's at the FLRA, about her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and this memory book, he asked me to include the following note from him:*

*Esther,  
Congratulations on your 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. I know that this is a special time for you and your family and I wish you many more years of happy retirement.*

*George*

The writer, Joan Rind, was Esther's co-worker at the Labor Department from 1970.

By the early 1970s, Park View Towers and its neighborhood had begun to deteriorate. In 1973, Esther and Sam decided to move to University Towers in Silver Spring, Maryland. Esther assisted her mother Minnie in moving there also. In the mid-1970s, Minnie experienced declining health and came to require full-time assistance. The decision was made to move her to a nursing home in Silver Spring. She experienced a continuing decline there and on September 26, 1979, she passed away at the age of 81.



Minnie Lutsky, mid 1970s (Jewler family)

In May 1981, Sam and Esther moved from University Towers, where they had lived for nine years, to Leisure World, a senior community in Silver Spring. Esther had been interested in moving for some time, as she felt that both she and Sam would be happier if they could have a larger community with less travel required. Sam had retired by then and Esther thought he needed to have more of a social life if he were going to enjoy his retirement. (Sam had sold the store in 1970 just as Lenny was opening Rising Earth. Sam continued working for a few more years on a part-time basis at a liquor store.) Sam was reluctant to move, as he was concerned about being around only "seniors." Esther prevailed and they moved to a garden apartment on Elkridge Way. The following year, in 1982, Esther retired from her job in the government.



Sam and Esther at 40th anniversary party in Leisure World, May 1985 (Jewler family)

They both knew in a short time that they had made the right decision. The community center at Leisure World provided a social center, where one could take classes, swim, play billiards, and -- most importantly -- play poker. Sam quickly found himself in a daily card game, which appeared to be his ideal vision of retirement. They also found that many of their friends from the past had moved there. They had an instant community within the confines of the complex.



The Jewler family, May 1982 (Irv and Frances Footer)  
From left standing: Rhoda and Nate Jewler, Sam Jewler,  
Irv Footer, Abe and Lenore Jewler  
From left seated: Esther Jewler, Frances Footer



The Jewler family at Leonard's house, Wash. DC, 1994 (Sheila Footer)

From left standing: Sheila Footer, Len Jewler, Donny Jewler,  
Lenore Jewler, Kenny and Catherine Jewler, Sarah Jewler, Jay Kennedy

From left seated: Beverly Meyers, Stacy Rosenthal (with children),

Andrea Rosen, Sam Jewler, Esther Jewler, Jean Rosen

From left floor: Amy, Eric, Marge, and Brad Gold

More Like a Sister

My name is:

Lenore Jewler

I have known Esther since:

1944? Sam and Esther's Wedding

My favorite "Esther" story is:

I can only say, if every person  
needed a good friend, they will have  
found one in Esther. She was always  
ready with a "Pep Talk" when I much  
needed one during my recovery from  
surgery. I knew when the "blues" got  
me down, all I had to do was call and  
(with all her problems) she cheered me up.

Through the years of our relationship,  
good times and bad ones, she was  
always there with a helping hand.  
What more could I ask from a  
sister-in-law who was more like a  
sister. I wish her a wonderful  
birthday.

Lenore J.

The writer, Lenore Jewler, was Esther's sister-in-law, the wife of Sam's brother, Abe, who was a partner with Sam in Jewler's Champlain Market.

## The Dancers

Nate & I have always enjoyed dancing. Anytime there was a special occasion & there was a chance for the family to get together, we were all there to celebrate together. A band would be playing & we would watch everyone dance by while we were visiting. When they played a cha-cha we watched Sam & Esther on the floor dancing. They had just started taking dancing lessons & were busy counting the steps and announcing to each other which steps they would be dancing next. It was really serious business!!

The next few affairs we went to we continued to watch their progress.

Lo & behold they were DANCING!!

SMILING!! It was a joy to behold!

They had fun on the dance floor & we enjoyed watching them!

Needless to say Esther is a real classy lady & is loved by all!

Rhoda & Nate

—

The writers, Nate and Rhoda Jewler, are Esther's brother- and sister-in-law. Nate was a partner with Sam in Jewler's Champlain Market.

## My Favorite Relative

My name is: Sheila Footer

I have known Esther since: I was born, 1938

My favorite "Esther" story is:

At the risk of offending other family members,  
I have to state that Esther is my favorite relative.  
We have shared lots of holidays together, and  
I have a deep affection and admiration for her.  
Three words come to mind when I think of her—  
FAMILY, FOOD, and FUN.



The writer, Sheila Footer, is Esther's niece, the daughter of Sam's sister and brother-in-law, Frances and Irv Footer.

### The Hamantaschen Maker

My name is: Marge Jewler Gold

I have known Esther since: I was born!

My favorite "Esther" story is:

Hamantaschen!

Without Aunt Esthers hamantaschen recipe the Purim tradition would not be where it is today in my household with my kids.

Everyone looks forward to Aunt Esthers Hamantaschen. I even had to teach my father, Nathan how to make them!

If you are reading this out loud - say it Loud and Clear! Aunt Esther is the most giving, caring sweetest person alive!

We Love  
you.  
Happy Happy again  
Joy Joy again  
Mazel Blad  
Amy & Eric

The writer, Marge (Jewler) Gold, is Esther's niece, the daughter of Sam's brother and sister-in-law, Nate and Rhoda Jewler.

### A Warm and Gentle Lady

My name is: KENNY JEWLER

I have known Esther since: 1943 WHEN I WAS BORN

My favorite "Esther" story is:

Sarah -

I don't have one particularly memory of your mom. When I think of her, which is often, because my mom brings her up in conversation, I think of a warm and gentle lady.

Your mom has always taken an interest in my life and my family's life. I do feel as comfortable with her as I do with my own mother. Sometimes a little more - your mother is, for me, very easy to talk to.

What to say about Sam - he taught me a lot - a decent, proper work ethic, fairness, kindness - I love Sam and Estie. I loved being with Sam and still love being with your mom. just hope we get to spend more time together.

Kenny

The writer, Kenny Jewler, is Esther's nephew, the son of Sam's brother and sister-in-law, Abe and Lenore Jewler.

## A Love of Family

Our favorite “Esther” story is: The times she came over and we would say “Aunt Esther is coming – where is the dog?”

Actually our fondest memories are of Aunt Esther’s love of family. When she would say, “How are the children?” she sincerely meant how are the children. She never criticizes anyone and is always a positive, upbeat person. Family holiday dinners together will always stand out in our minds.

We wish you a very Happy and Joyous 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. May you have many more. And, to quote our Aunt Esther, “Lots of *nachas*. You have a lovely family and should be quite proud.” We love you.

O.K. Madison, you can come out now.

With love,

Jan and Mike

The writers, Mike and Jan Footer, are Esther’s nephew and niece. Mike is the son of Sam’s sister and brother-in-law, Frances and Irv Footer.

## Special Medicine

I remember Aunt Esther's concern and caring. If I was sick or in the hospital, Aunt Esther would always visit or call. And she would bring her special medicine – her delicious home-made mandel bread — to strengthen me and brighten my day. Thank you for the hugs and kisses, Aunt Esther.

Love, Don

The writer, Don Jewler, is Esther’s nephew, the son of Sam’s brother and sister-in-law, Nate and Rhoda Jewler.

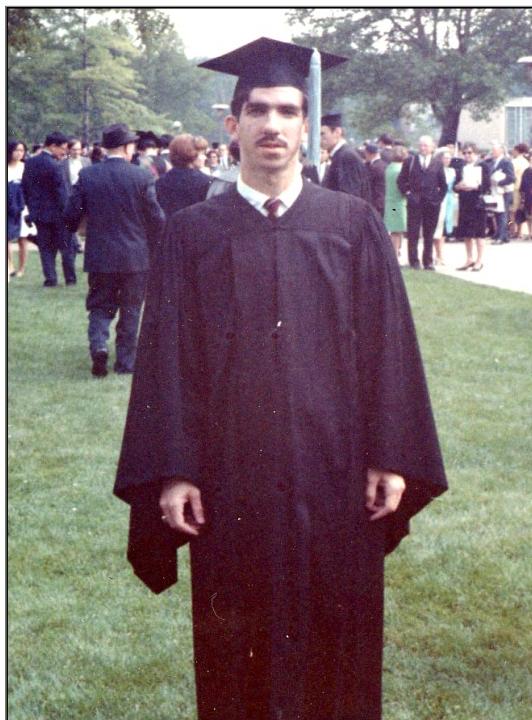
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### *Leonard and Barbara/Sarah*

The late 1960s and 1970s were a time of significant societal unrest. The war in Vietnam was raging and students all across America developed a political consciousness, not in small part because they were threatened with being drafted and sent to fight in a war which they considered to be unjust. There were demonstrations all across the country against the war and the government that sponsored it. It was also a time of racial unrest. Martin Luther King's death in April 1968 resulted in riots across the country and forced everyone, no matter what their age, to reconsider their ideas on racial equality.

This was a difficult time in the Jewler household. The tensions in society reverberated within the family. Lenny and Barbara were vociferous in their positions on racial equality and the Vietnam War. They had the conviction of all highly educated 22-year-olds, and spent many hours arguing with their parents about politics. The younger generation felt that a new world had dawned, where many of the beliefs and rules of the old world were to be thrown out. They wanted to live "outside of society" in this new world, a concept which manifested itself both physically and emotionally. It was a time of great strife between the generations. In the succeeding years, Esther referred to this period as "the Dark Years."

From September 1964 through June 1968, Leonard studied electrical engineering and computer science at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was accepted at two graduate business schools for the Master of Business Administration programs – the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and the Chicago School at the University of Chicago.



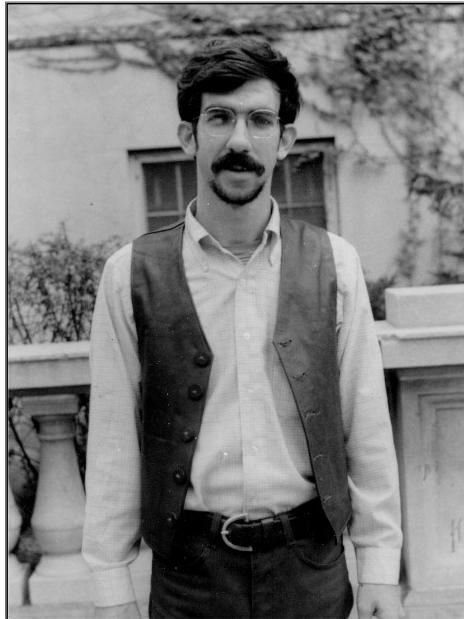
Leonard at graduation from Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, June 1968 (Jewler family)



Barbara, Esther, Sam, and Minnie (Jewler family)  
At Leonard's college graduation, Pittsburgh, June 1968

In August 1968, graduate school deferments from the military draft were eliminated. Leonard was opposed to the American war in Viet Nam and did not want to enter active military service in its behalf. In the weeks prior to the fall admission to graduate school, Leonard felt compelled to reverse his acceptance since he would have been drafted out of school. He then sought an occupational deferment. In September 1968, he obtained a position as a systems engineer doing work for the government at Planning Research Corporation in Washington, D.C. As the government sought increasing numbers of recruits for the war, occupational deferments began to be eliminated. At that point, Leonard decided to enlist in the Army Reserves rather than face the draft. In the spring of 1969, he applied and was accepted in an overstocking (recruitment in excess of required personnel) of a local reserve unit in Montgomery County, Maryland. Two weeks later he received induction orders for active duty Army service. (The active duty induction order was superseded by his prior enlistment in the reserves.) As a reservist, he would undergo Army basic training for six months and attend reserve meetings once a month for several years. Basic training was scheduled for October 1969.

During the prior few years, Leonard was becoming increasingly aware of the "counterculture" movement of American youth. This movement included those opposed to the war, those supportive of increased civil rights, and those exploring alternatives for personal self-realization. Leonard decided to resign his professional position and travel to Hollywood, California in July 1969 with his friend from junior high school, Marc Spiegel. There, for several weeks, they lived the classic "California experience" of the 1960s. They hitchhiked along the coast, traveled to Big Sur, and discovered Eastern Meditation. Leonard decided to return in August to attend what promised to be an extraordinary music festival in New York State. With another junior high school friend, Mack Emsellem, he attended the Woodstock festival. It proved to be a landmark event of the period with an estimated half million youth in attendance.



Leonard at Dupont Circle apartment, spring 1970

From October 1969 through March 1970 Leonard underwent Army basic training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and supply training at a base in Virginia. On weekends, he would travel with Army buddies from the Virginia base and sleep on the living room floor at Barbara's apartment near George Washington University. Following the training, he began once-a-month meetings at the local reserve unit. Most of the unit consisted of college educated men who were against the war and had enlisted to avoid the draft. Many were frustrated with the military requirement to maintain short hair at a time when long hair was the fashion and a symbol membership in the growing alternative culture. To resolve this conflict, a number of the reservists, including Leonard, let their hair grow and purchased short hair wigs. It was so widespread and public, that the men standing around in uniform, waited until a few minutes before the morning formation and then pulled up their hair and installed the wigs right in front of the reserve officers.



Leonard at Army basic training graduation, Fort Bragg, NC, March 1970

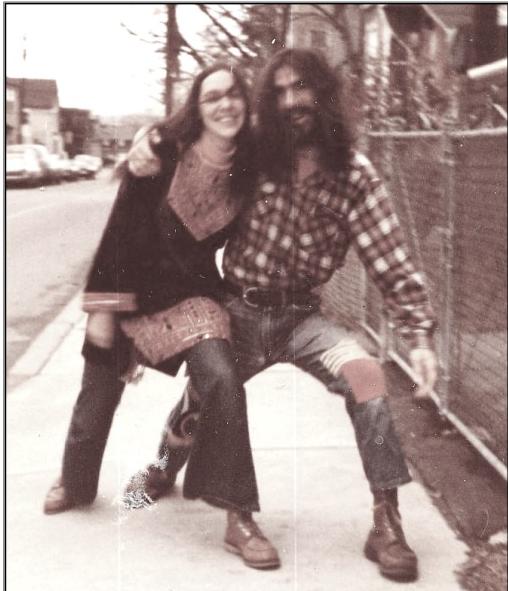
In the summer of 1970, Leonard traveled to Europe with Mack Emsellem. They had just seen the movie *Easy Rider*, which told the story of two motorcyclists who questioned conventional American values. In London, they purchased two Triumph 350 cc motorcycles. With large red fists stenciled on the back of their jackets from the recent anti-war rally on the mall in Washington, they journeyed across France and Germany and ended in Amsterdam, Holland. There they made Dutch friends and lived on a houseboat in a canal.

With an altered set of priorities, Leonard decided to go to graduate school in regional planning. He was accepted at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design and began attendance in September 1970. He moved into a house in Cambridge, Massachusetts with his junior high school friends Marc Spiegel and Gary Malasky who were also graduate students at Harvard.



Leonard, Gary, and Marc at their Scorpio party in Cambridge, Mass., Nov. 1970

In the early 1970s, Cambridge was a center of the emerging alternative culture in the United States. Within a few months, Leonard became an organizer of a neighborhood food coop and connected with the incipient natural food community. In December 1970, he decided to drop out of graduate school and open a natural food store, Rising Earth. He met Pat Cronin in 1971 and married her in 1973. Also, around 1973, he sold Rising Earth and began work as a computer analyst at the Children's Hospital Medical Center in Boston. He and Pat moved to a 19<sup>th</sup> century house in Sherborn, Massachusetts, and set up a small farm which included eighteen goats, two dozen chickens, two geese, a dog, a cat, and a large garden. In 1975, Leonard and Pat divorced – she moved to a rural area with the animals and he moved back to Boston.



Leonard and Pat Cronin, Cambridge, MA, 1971 (Leonard Jewler)

\* \* \* \* \*

From September 1966 through June 1970, Barbara studied American literature at George Washington University in downtown Washington, D.C. In the summer of 1969, she traveled to Europe with her childhood friend Harlene Cohen. Graduating the following year, she had no real direction and therefore decided to continue her education. Based on the recommendation of a favorite professor, she enrolled in the University of Michigan's graduate English department. She had the summer between undergraduate and graduate school free, so she decided to take a trip with her college roommate to Oregon, where her roommate's brother had just bought some land. Through an advertisement they found someone who wanted their car driven across country and set off. Although no one knew it at the time, it was the beginning of a new chapter for all involved.



Barbara with childhood friend Harlene Cohen  
in Amsterdam, Holland, Summer 1969 (Jewler family)

They arrived in Wolf Creek, Oregon to find both a house and a commune being built. There were several people living there – with no plumbing or electricity – engaged in a new social experiment. It was a new world for Barbara – meeting people who had none of the formal education that she did but far more life experience. They taught her how to live in the woods without any of society's comforts as well as how to use a hammer and a saw. She was captivated. As September 1970 came around and she told everyone that she needed to leave and go back to school, her commune-mates were bewildered, and said "But you love it here." It was true. She did, and she made the decision to forego graduate school and stay in Oregon – much to her parents' dismay. That commune experience lasted five years.



Barbara (Sarah) (standing by window) with commune residents at Wolf Creek Inn in Oregon, early 1970s (Jewler family)

About two years into her time in Oregon, Barbara decided to change her name to Sarah. It was common on the commune and in "hippy society" for people to change their given names. She chose a name that she had always loved, and that was also her middle name in Hebrew – Sarah. She's been known ever since as Sarah, although the family retains the right to call her by whichever name they like.

In 1975, Sarah left Oregon and came back East. She moved in temporarily with Lenny in his new apartment in Boston. It was a time of transition for both children. Lenny was single again, living in the city, and had taken a position as director of programming at the epidemiology department of the Harvard School of Public Health. Sarah had taken a job with Benwill Publishing, an engineering trade magazine company, which launched her career in publishing.



Sarah, Sam, Esther, and Lenny in Boston, latter 1970s (Jewler family)

In 1979 Sarah decided to move to New York City to be in the center of the publishing world. She landed a series of publishing positions of increasing responsibility. In 1980 she worked at *Rolling Stone*, in 1982 at *Spring* magazine, and at 1984 at *Cuisine*, where they published the recipe for Minnie Lutsky's cookies. (The magazine article included photos of the cookies which were named "Bubbe's Cookies.") In 1984 Sarah went to *Manhattan Inc.*, and in 1989 to the *Village Voice*. In 1994 she went to *New York* magazine where she was the managing editor until 2005.



Sarah at Manhattan Inc., New York, 1986 (Jewler family)

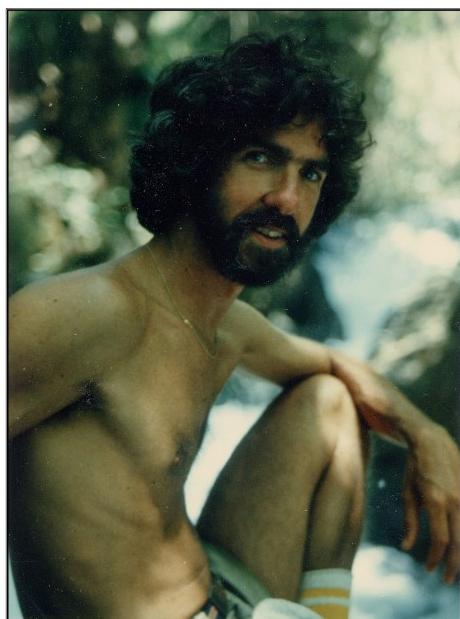
While living in the commune in Oregon, Sarah had learned to play the drums and other percussion instruments. She continued playing in New York City in the 1980s and, for a period, was part of a music group there.



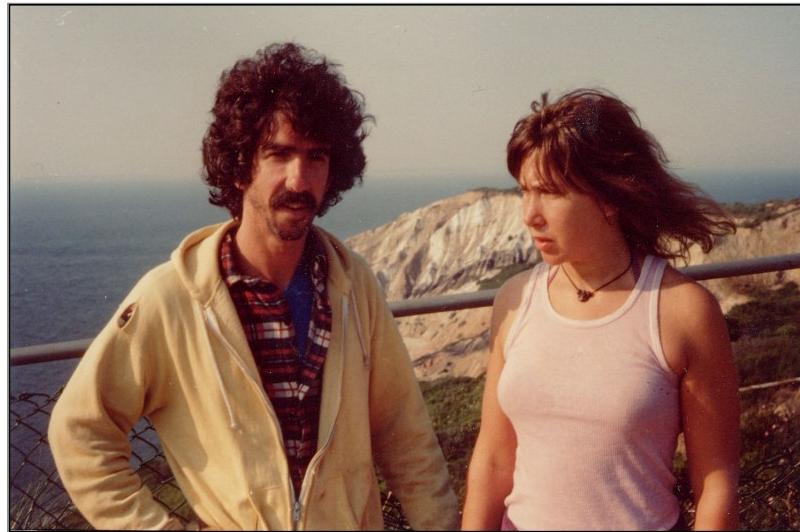
Sarah performing at outdoor venue in New York City, 1980s

\* \* \* \*

In 1980, Lenny, having visited his sister several times in New York, decided to move there himself. Prior to the move, he decided to take an extended vacation. From March to May, he traveled to Greece, Egypt, and Israel. While in Israel, he visited with relatives, including Nisson Garbus, Esther's uncle, and Ruth and Sibi Adar, Shmuel Garbus's daughter and son-in-law. (Ruth (Garbus) Adar is Esther's cousin.) In June through August, he lived on Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts.



Lenny in Israel, May 1980



Lenny and Sarah at Gay Head, Martha's Vineyard, August 1980

In September 1980, Lenny moved to New York City, not far from his sister in Tribeca. In early 1981 his mother met Jean Rosen in the laundry room at University Towers. They had known each other for several years as they had both previously lived at Park View Towers. They got to talking and discovered that they both had children living in New York City. Esther mentioned to Lenny that Jean's daughter, Andrea, lived in the same city, and suggested that he call her. Since Lenny was interested in meeting new people, he called. They were soon dating.



Lenny and Andrea at Amagansett, New York, 1983

Lenny and Andrea discovered that they had a lot in common – they were both from Washington, had lived in Park View Towers at the same time, and had heard their parents reminisce about dining at Lou G. Siegel's. On March 26, 1983, they were married at the Rockville Civic Center in metropolitan Washington DC.



Lenny and Andrea at their wedding in Rockville, MD, March 26, 1983



Lenny, Sarah, Sam, and Esther at Lenny and Andrea's wedding, March 26, 1983

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Sam and Esther at Lenny's Worthington Street house, Wash. DC, April 1986

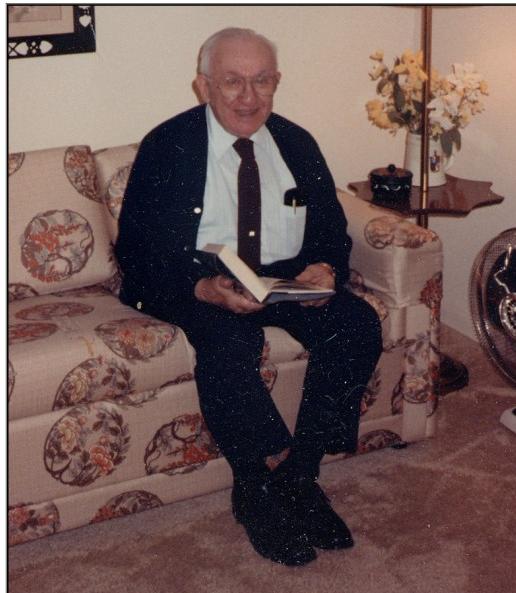
In 1985, Lenny and Andrea decided to move from New York back to Washington and start a family. They purchased a house in Washington, D.C. on Worthington Street. Len took a position as a systems engineer at the MITRE Corporation. Andrea accepted employment as a researcher at the National Trust for Historic Preservation and later at Georgetown University.



Sam and Esther, Olney, MD, September 1985

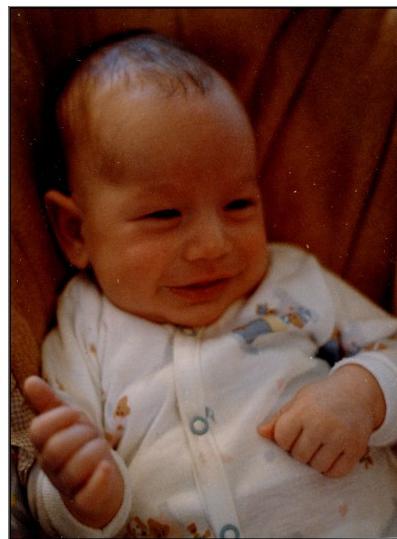
### *Sam and Esther's Final Years*

Sam's health started to deteriorate when he moved to Leisure World. He suffered from several physical ailments, the most serious being heart trouble. In 1987 he suffered several heart attacks and congestive heart failure in a short period of time. The decision was made to do a quintuple heart bypass operation. The several hour procedure caused Sam to have a stroke, from which he never recovered. He was in a coma for six weeks, during which time family members comforted and communicated with him. He died on December 9, 1987.



Sam engaged in his favorite pastime – reading, Olney, MD, mid-1980s

While Sam was being wheeled to the operating room, Leonard told him that his wife Andrea was pregnant and that the family all wanted him to recover from the surgery so that he could know his first grandchild. Unfortunately, it was not meant to be. Sam's grandchild was born on August 7, 1988 – eight months after his passing. In honor of his recently deceased grandfather, the child was named Samuel Jewler.



Samuel Rosen Jewler, Wash. DC, born August 7, 1988

\* \* \* \* \*

In 1985, Muriel and her husband Richard Plummer came to Washington and joined Sam, Esther, Lenny, and Andrea in a drive to New York City in the family Buick. (Muriel and Murray Berg had divorced earlier and Muriel had married Richard.) While in New York, the family visited locations in Brooklyn on 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> Streets, where Esther and Muriel had lived as children. They also visited the store on Fort Hamilton Parkway that is in the same location where Solomon Lutsky had his hardware store.



Muriel (Lutsky) Plummer and Esther (Lutsky) Jewler in New York City, 1985



The family at Sammie's Romanian Restaurant in New York City, 1985  
From left: Mitchel Holtzman, Sarah Jewler, Sam and Esther Jewler,  
Muriel Plummer, Andrea Rosen, Leonard Jewler

In the late 1980s, Esther's sister Muriel developed emphysema. The condition became progressively worse. In October 1992, Esther and her family visited Muriel and her family in St. Louis. Within a few weeks of the visit, Muriel, Esther's beloved sister, passed away.



Jewler and Berg family visit in St. Louis, October 1992  
Rear from left: Steve and Rebecca Berg, Muriel (Lutsky) Plummer,  
Esther Jewler, Sarah Jewler, Susan (Berg) Zuckerman  
Front from left: Kristi Berg, Leonard and Sam Jewler, Lauren Zuckerman



Sarah Jewler & Susan Zuckerman at Steve Berg's wedding, San Diego, 1986

In October 1998, Esther and her family traveled to St. Louis to attend the Bat Mitzvah of Lauren Zuckerman, the daughter of Susan (Berg) Zuckerman and Gary Zuckerman, and granddaughter of Muriel (Lutsky) Plummer.



Esther, Lenny, and Sarah at Lauren Zuckerman's Bat Mitzvah in St. Louis, 1998

\* \* \* \* \*

In September 1990, Esther decided to move from her garden apartment on Elkridge Way to a new high-rise apartment on Leisure World Boulevard. She felt that there would be additional opportunities to socialize in the new environment. Esther enjoyed very much being around people. She was active in Jewish Residents of Leisure World and in Hadassah. She regularly bowled and played canasta with her friends. And she took aerobics, read often, and cooked all that delicious food that has been referred to many times in this book. She was so busy that when calling her, one was more likely to reach her answering machine than to find her home.



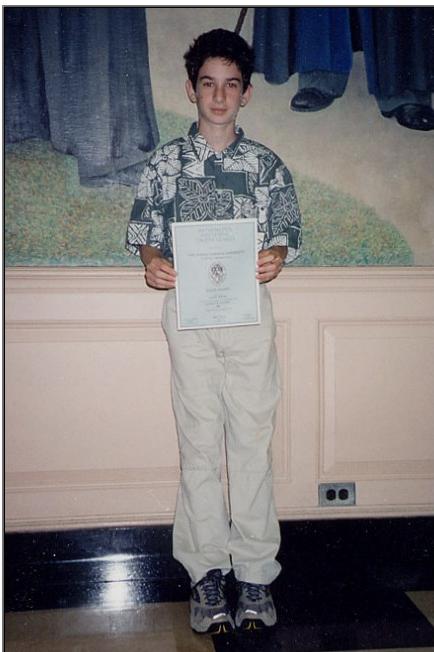
Esther and Sam with Sarah's charcoal portrait of her father, Olney, MD, March 1989

Esther forged an active life filled with giving and doing. She braved adversity and loss and continued with enthusiasm.

*I learned to see good in everything I had to do – even if I didn't like it, I learned to like it. If you want to be happy, that's what you have to do – learn to like difficult things or things that don't especially appeal to you.*



Esther and family at Orient, New York, 1993  
From left: Andrea Rosen, Esther, Sam, Lenny and Sarah Jewler, Jay Kennedy



Sam Rosen Jewler, Spring 2000  
Johns Hopkins Award Ceremony



Sixth Grade Graduation

## My Bubbe

When I think of my Bubbe, I think of her love, care, and food. She is a professional at all of them. Whenever I am around her, she shows her love towards my parents and me. She is always ready to take care of me for a night if my parents are busy. Any stranger would know how kind and caring she is just by talking to her for a few minutes.

And she is the best cook I have ever met. Whenever I come to Bubbe's apartment for a meal, I can smell the food as soon as I walk in the door and hug and greet Bubbe. But when I actually see the food, my mouth waters enough to water a 10-acre field. What I'm trying to say is, I am very happy to have Esther Jewler as a close relative of mine. She is someone who gives me real pleasure.

The writer, Sam Rosen Jewler, is Esther's grandson. Written in 2000.

## Esther's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday

In celebration of Esther's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, Lenny and Sarah and their families traveled in November 2000 with Esther to the Wolverton Inn in Buck's County Pennsylvania. They spent several days relaxing and exploring the countryside. The highlight of the trip was the dinner during which Esther was given her birthday gift – the first edition of this volume with the story of her life. On presenting the gift, Lenny read the dedication. Esther was moved to tears, as were we all.



Esther and family at Wolverton Inn, Nov. 2000  
From left: Sarah, Jay Kennedy, Sam, Esther, Andrea Rosen, and Lenny



Esther opening her 80th birthday gift – the first version of this book, Nov. 2000

### **Sam Jewler's Bar Mitzvah**

On October 20, 2001, Sam had his Bar Mitzvah at Tifereth Israel synagogue in Washington, D.C. Sam conducted a significant portion of the Shabbat service. A Shabbat luncheon was held at the synagogue and a reception was held that evening at the McLean Gardens ballroom. Esther was a proud Bubbe throughout.



Bar Mitzvah rehearsal at Tifereth Israel, Wash. DC, Oct. 2001  
Andrea, Sam, and Lenny



After Bar Mitzvah at Tifereth Israel, Wash. DC, Oct. 20, 2001  
From left: Esther, Lenny, Sam, Andrea, Sarah, and Jay



Esther and Sam at Sam's Bar Mitzvah Reception, Wash. DC, Oct. 2001



Esther and family at Sam's Bar Mitzvah Reception, Wash. DC, Oct. 2001  
From left: Andrea Rosen, Lenny, Sam, Esther, Sarah, Jay Kennedy



Esther and family at Sam's Bar Mitzvah Reception, Wash. DC, Oct. 2001  
From left: Sarah, Steve Berg, Esther, Lenny, Susan (Berg) Zuckerman



Esther and Sam conduct Kiddush at Sam's Bar Mitzvah Reception, Wash. DC, Oct. 2001

## **Esther Jewler's Decline**

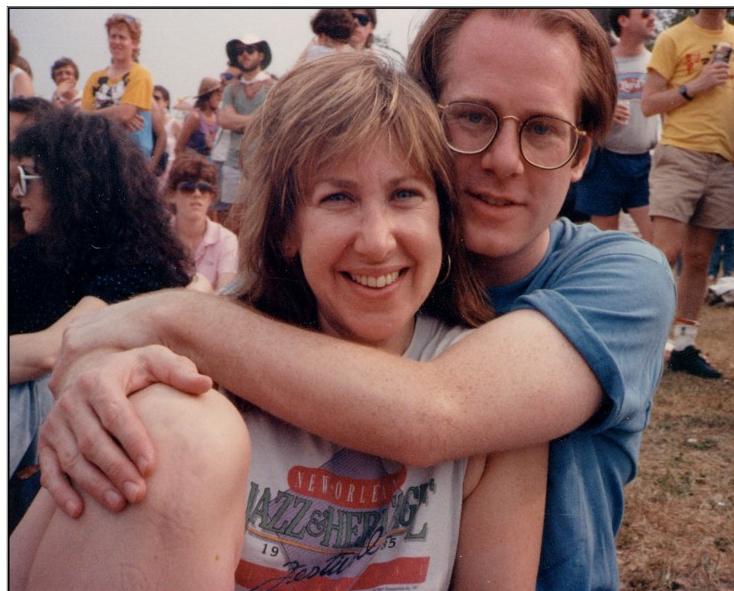
Esther was diagnosed to have a rare blood condition, Myelodysplastic Syndrome. This is a type of cancer in which the bone marrow does not produce enough healthy blood cells. Failure of the bone marrow to produce mature healthy cells is a gradual process.<sup>68</sup> Esther managed to carry on for several years with minimal adverse effects. However, in 2005, after learning of her daughter, Sarah's death, she started to require blood transfusions. These increased in frequency until the early months of 2007 when the disease progressed to acute myeloid leukemia and her health rapidly declined. On March 15, 2007, her son in law, Jay Kennedy, died suddenly while vacationing in Costa Rica and the news was devastating to Esther. She passed away two weeks later on April 2, 2007.

## **Family Losses and the Next Generation**

Some family members who were introduced earlier have passed away. In this section, the stories of their lives will be brought up to date. In addition, the next generation has been forming new families.

### ***Sarah Jewler and Jay Kennedy***

In 1988, Sarah met Jay Kennedy. Jay was Editor-in-Chief of King Features comic syndicate. The two fell in love and lived together in Sarah's Tribeca neighborhood in lower Manhattan.



Sarah and Jay in New Orleans, 1988 (Jewler family)

Their apartment was located at Greenwich and Harrison Streets with a view of lower Manhattan and the Hudson River. They were home on the morning of September 11, 2001 during the terror attack on the World Trade Center buildings. When I heard the news, I called Sarah that morning and she was, understandably, quite upset. They had heard the two airplanes flying down the river quite close to their building and witnessed the impacts from their window. They were in their eighth-floor apartment when the cloud of dust from the collapsed buildings, only six blocks away, moved north and threatened to engulf their building. Before it reached them, they heard announcements from law enforcement in the street telling residents, via bullhorns, to evacuate the

<sup>68</sup> "What is MDS", Myelodysplastic Syndrome Foundation, <https://www.mds-foundation.org/what-is-mds/>

building and head north away from the disaster. They ran down the steps, in the clothes they were wearing, along with the other residents of the 39-story building and walked north to stay with friends for several days until it was safe to return. Their apartment was later cleaned by the city in the aftermath of the toxic dust exposure. However, Jay, in later years, attributed Sarah's decline in health to her exposure then to the benzene in the dust in their apartment.

Over the years, Sarah and Jay spent their summers in Orient, New York which is located on the north fork of eastern Long Island. For several years, they rented a house. In May 2001, they purchased a beautiful craftsman-style house located on a hill with a view of Gardiner's Bay to the south. Each summer, Esther, Leonard, Andrea and Sam would visit the Orient house for a week-long family gathering.

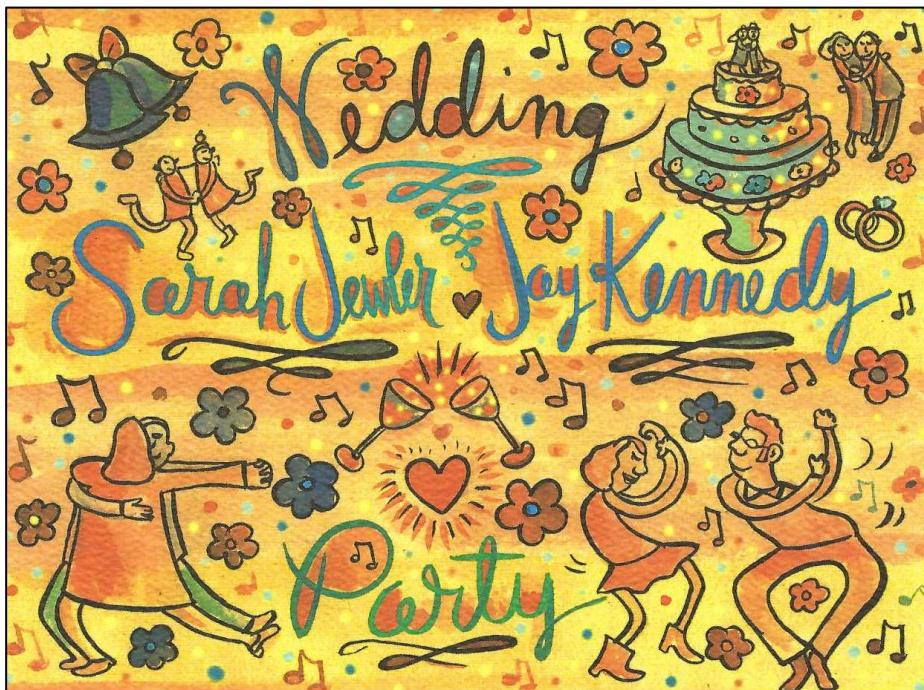


Family visiting rental house in Orient, 1999 (Jewler family)  
From left Sam Jewler, Len Jewler, Andrea Rosen, Esther Jewler, Sarah Jewler, Jay Kennedy



Family visiting purchased house in Orient, 2003 (Jewler family)  
From left Len Jewler, Andrea Rosen, Sarah Jewler, Jay Kennedy, Sam Jewler

On September 28, 2002 Sarah and Jay married at their house in Orient, New York. The wedding invitation was created by Lynda Barry, a cartoonist and friend of theirs. The ceremony was held under a chuppah in the field behind the house and the reception in a nearby tent.



Invitation to Sarah and Jay's wedding, 2002, by Lynda Barry



Sarah and Jay at their wedding in Orient, 2002 (Jewler family)



Family at Sarah and Jay's wedding in Orient, 2002 (Jewler family)  
From left, Len Jewler, Andrea Rosen, Esther Jewler, Sarah Jewler, Jay Kennedy, Sam Jewler

By the time of her wedding, Sarah had begun to suffer ill health due to a rare blood condition, Polycythemia Vera. This is a slow-growing blood cancer in which the bone marrow makes too many red blood cells. Sarah was treated with increasing medical interventions and was preparing for a bone marrow transplant in the hospital in December 2004 when her condition significantly deteriorated. She passed away on January 5, 2005 in New York.

An obituary in the *New York Times*<sup>69</sup> stated:

*Ms. Jewler was a steady presence at the magazine even as it switched editors, owners and editorial approaches. She was hired as managing editor in 1994 by its editor at the time, Kurt Andersen, and continued to serve in that role under Caroline Miller and, more recently, Adam Moss.*

*"She was in many ways the emotional center of the magazine," said Ms. Miller, who left the magazine in February 2004. As managing editor, Ms. Jewler coordinated the practical parts of putting together a weekly, including negotiating writers' payments and contracts, devising annual budgets and ensuring the steady flow of articles.*

*"When I met her, she exuded former hipster -- she had lived in communes and been a rock drummer," said Mr. Kaplan, who is now the editor of *The New York Observer*. "She could make people fall into line by lifting an eyebrow," he added. She continued to work until last week.*

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<sup>69</sup> David Carr, *The New York Times*, January 7, 2005

<https://www.nytimes.com/2005/01/07/business/media/sarah-jewler-56-editor-at-new-york-magazine-dies.html>

In another remembrance, John Homans, Executive Editor of *New York Magazine*, wrote<sup>70</sup>:

*It surprised those who didn't know her well that Sarah Jewler, the managing editor of this magazine, who died last week at age 56, from a rare blood disorder, had spent a few years on a commune in the early seventies, playing music, living off the land, having plenty of the sort of fun that people in their twenties like to have. But the way Sarah always described her role there was: "I was the managing editor of a commune." Another way of saying this is that she was a communard—she loved playing a central role in a group enterprise. But she didn't need the spotlight. As a drummer (she played in the eighties downtown orchestra the Ordinaires, and countless jams), she liked to get in a groove and stay in the background, beaming as she played.*

*In the office, living close to the land meant sharing a foxhole with editors. She knew she was going to get shot at and didn't mind shooting back. She loved being the voice of reason, questioning, applying her common sense, making sure people had their feet on the ground. She loved the magazine, the sitcom drama of it, the frenzied weekly pace.*

*In a business where people pride themselves on their talk, Sarah's gift was listening. She drew people out. They wanted to confide in her, which was her strength. She took keen amusement in people's foibles, which made her an excellent gossip. She howled with laughter over the latest outrage. But she operated according to a strict code of gossip honor: If you told her to keep a secret, she kept it. She was a truly wonderful friend.*

*And she was an optimist. She had every confidence she could push back, wear down her disease, outlast it. We're terribly sad that this is one battle she didn't win.*

Jay designed the monument for her grave at the cemetery in Orient.



Sarah Jewler's monument (front), Orient, New York

<sup>70</sup> John Homans, *New York Magazine*, January 19, 2005

<http://nymag.com/nymetro/news/people/columns/intelligencer/10882/>

# Barbara Sarah Jewler

פרומה שרה

May 18, 1948 – January 5, 2005

*By example, she inspired  
and enabled others to be better.  
...and that welcoming smile....*

Daughter of Samuel and Esther,  
Sister of Leonard Jewler, Wife of Jay Kennedy

בת שמעון והדסה, אחות אליעזר, ואשת ניא

Straight-A student Hippie Homesteader

Conga Drummer Publishing executive

Gardener Friend Beautiful wife

Inscriptions on Sarah Jewler's monument (left is front, right is back)

On May 1, 2005, Jay organized a memorial service for Sarah at City Hall Restaurant that was attended by many friends and family as well as work associates from magazine publishing and the comics. Three years earlier many of the same people attended Sarah and Jay's wedding.



A celebration and remembrance of  
**SARAH JEWLER**

Sunday, May 1st  
5:00 - 8:00PM

City Hall Restaurant  
131 Duane Street  
(between Church and West Broadway)  
New York, NY 10013  
212-227-7777  
[www.cityhallnewyork.com](http://www.cityhallnewyork.com)

Dress: party casual

Invitation to Sarah Jewler's memorial service, New York City, 2005

Three years after Sarah passed away, her good friend, Nancy Butkus, wrote an article about their shared love of gardening that was published in the *New York Observer*. Nancy was the art director at the *Observer*.

## THE URBAN GARDENER



### Sarah of Two Gardens

Some years ago, my friend Sarah and I spent a summer afternoon thinning rosebushes in my North Fork garden, only to emerge with our arms covered in hairline scratches from the thorns. She gave me a pair of elbow-high goatskin gardening gloves the following Christmas—a useful and memorable gift. They're tattered and hardened now from spending too much time in the rough, but since Sarah died three years ago, they are a lovely sight in the bottom of my tool bag.

Sarah had two gardens—one was a container garden on her Tribeca terrace, where, battling high winds and hot sun, through trial and error and many visits

to Chelsea Garden Center, she found the right mix of annuals and perennials to withstand these singularly New York City conditions. She filled her wooden planters with low-lying favorites like fleshy-leaved portulaca and neat mounds of Sweet William and added some hardy shrubs for greenery and height. Sarah had established her organic chops years before on a commune in Oregon; this woman knew her compost from her mulch. With an old garden bench, an assortment of watering cans and 10-pound bags of topsoil, the mini-Eden on the west-facing terrace was a hippie outpost nine flights up. As if in a blessing from above, one day a large bag of marijuana

dropped onto it from the sky.

Her second garden was at the old house she and her husband bought in Orient, N.Y., at the northeast tip of Long Island. By the time they moved in, she was too sick with leukemia to take on the ambitious project of taming the wildly overgrown beds. But I wasn't. With a view of sparkling Orient Harbor, sitting in the beds, she talked while I yanked; this became our cherished weekend routine. Her weakened state did nothing to diminish her interest in improving the garden. There were plants she wanted to add, and the North Fork is a gardeners delight when it comes to nurseries—so many splendid offerings in this old farm belt.

Plant shopping with Sarah was exactly like clothes shopping with Sarah—just as seams were closely inspected (her mother had been an expert dressmaker), she would search among the green for discolored leaves or too few buds. Our last trip the summer before she died was to one of our favorite nurseries, the Long Island Perennial Farm, in backcountry Riverhead, where peacocks roamed and the gallon-size pots sold for \$4.95 (we were both bargain hunters). As we walked down the rows—shade plants and sun lovers each had their own section—I pulled along a red wagon, filling it with our best hopes. In one of the aisles, Sarah

bent over to pick up a pot. But because her blood flow was weak, she began to topple over. I quickly caught her, held on for a second until she was steady again, and we continued with our shopping, never mentioning it.



That was Sarah's attitude about her illness. She never complained, just as she hadn't about thorns, blustery Tribeca winds or spreading weeds. It was a sunny summer day and we both were having too much fun.

—Nancy Butkus

Remembrance of Sarah Jewler by Nancy Butkus, *New York Observer*, 2008

\* \* \* \*

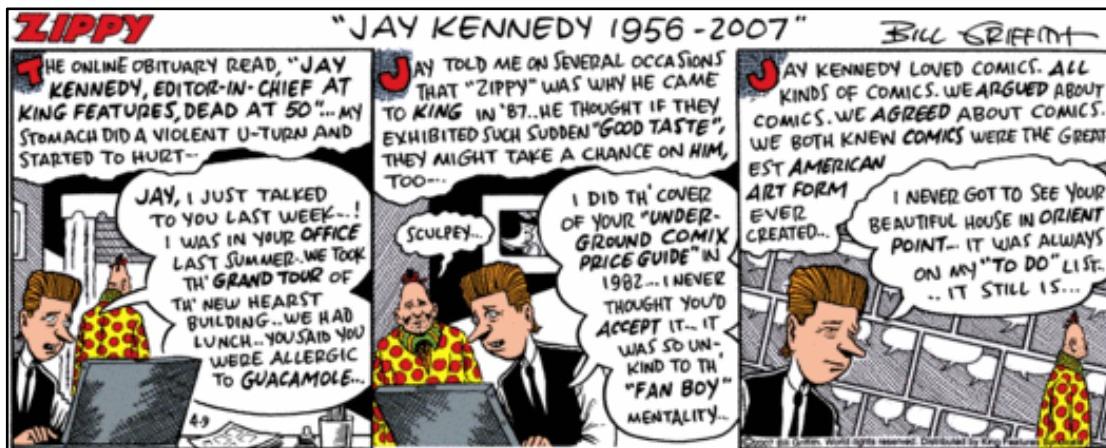
Sarah's death was a terrible loss for all who knew her. In March of 2005, Jay sent a card to friends and family with the 1988 photo of him and Sarah (shown earlier) and the following text:

*Looking back, I realize that pretty much every time I spoke of Sarah, I was bragging. That's how fortunate I felt and how much I treasured her.*

*Coming down off a 17-year run of good fortune is hard. But expressions of appreciation & warmth for Sarah, and concern for me have helped.*

Toward the end of 2006, Jay reconnected with an old high school girlfriend, Lauren, and in March 2007 they traveled together to Costa Rica. Sadly, the trip, which began with such promise, ended in tragedy<sup>71</sup>. Jay and Lauren were in the water at Playa Grande, a beach on the Pacific Ocean, in calm water when suddenly huge waves began to roll in. A surfer in the water, John Tough, heard someone scream for help and he swam to Jay to offer assistance. Jay told John that he was with Lauren who was 20 yards away in distress and asked John to leave him and go help her. John left his surfboard with Jay and swam to assist Lauren. After struggling to rescue her and having trouble getting them both to shore, he told her to stay in place while he got additional help. He swam back and enlisted several friends who rushed into the water with their surfboards. According to John, "They brought her in slowly as the tide became very strong and the waves were crushing them." Unfortunately, Jay did not survive. "Since he was on the inside of the surf break, the waves kept hitting him and would pull him back in making it a relentless cycle...his acts were truly honorable and selfless in that he told me to go help the woman. He put another person's life ahead of his own and is a true hero, for whomever the woman is, she would not be alive if it were not for your Uncle."

A memorial service was held on April 15, 2007 at one of Jay's favorite restaurants, The Park, in the Chelsea neighborhood of New York. A small program pamphlet was provided that listed the dozen "colleagues and cartoonists, friends and family" who spoke that day. Cartoonists posted their characters saying farewell to Jay.



Zippy by Bill Griffith, 2007

<sup>71</sup> The details of the incident described here were provided by the heroic surfer, John Tough, in correspondence with Sam Jewler on March 19, 2007.



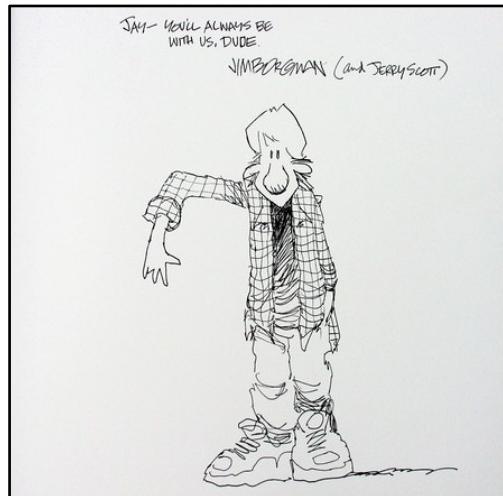
Binky by Matt Groenig, 2007



Dennis the Menace by Ron Ferdinand, 2007



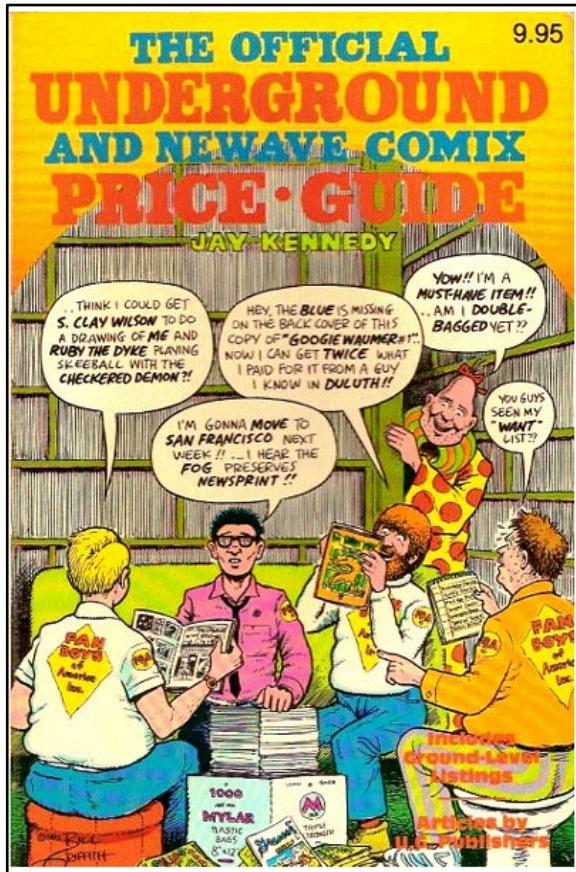
Hagar the Horrible by Chris Browne, 2007



XX by Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott, 2007

Comics' characters drawn by cartoonist friends at Jay's memorial service, New York, 2007

Jay had an extensive collection of underground comics and wrote *The Official Underground and Newave Comix Price Guide*. In his will, he designated that his comic collection be donated to the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and Museum at Ohio State University where it now resides.



Underground Comics' Price Guide published by Jay Kennedy, 1982

Several cartoonists, who were associates and friends, contributed to the design of Jay's monument at the cemetery in Orient. Sarah and Jay's graves are next to each other at the cemetery.



Jay Kennedy's monument, Orient, New York

## *Murray Berg and Steve Berg*

Susan Berg Zuckerman describes the life of her father, Murray Berg.<sup>72</sup>

Murray Berg came to this country in 1937 at the age of 17 from Michalovce, Czechoslovakia. He was the 9th of 11 children of Shimon and Sprinza Weinberger. It had been a life-long dream of his to come to America and it was realized when his uncle, his mother's brother, agreed to sponsor him. He had no idea he would never see his beloved family again.

Murray worked at his uncle's gas station by day and went to school at night. Immediately after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Murray enlisted in the US Army and served with distinction under General George Patton. After D-Day, Murray requested leave to go back to Michalovce to see if any family members had survived. Sadly, only one sister remained, and one brother had escaped to Australia and a sister to Italy. With a heavy heart and an overwhelming sense of loss, he returned to the United States. Working in Washington, DC, he met and married Muriel Lutsky, to whom he was married for twenty years. Muriel's family quickly became Murray's family. He loved them as if they were his own.

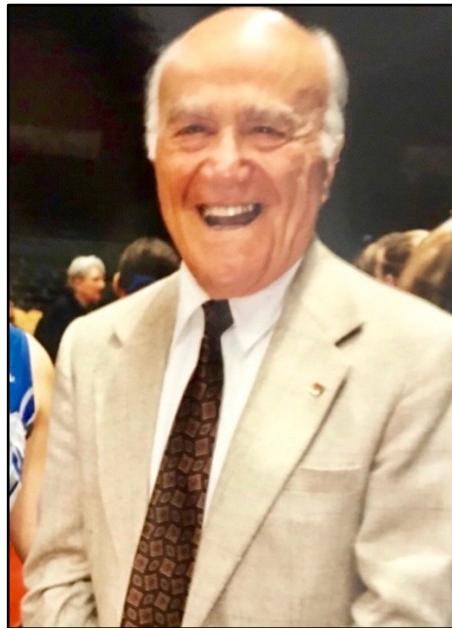
Murray strongly believed in education and although it took him over ten years, while working multiple jobs, he received a college degree from The Command and General Staff College. The military suited him, and he was an Army man for the rest of his life. He retired from the Army Reserve at the rank of Colonel.

Murray worked for the Air Force at The Defense and Mapping Agency (renamed The Geospatial Spy Station) as a cartographer for twenty-five years. Every summer he went on active duty, most often to San Diego to teach cartography to the soldiers at Coronado Naval Air Station. He started his career in Washington DC, but in 1956 he was promoted to a new position in St. Louis, Missouri. This was devastating to my mother who had an extremely close bond to her sister, Esther Jewler, and parents, Sol and Minnie Lutsky.

After twenty-five years in St. Louis, now divorced and eligible for retirement, Murray relocated to San Diego, California. After several years, he met and married Judy Wolfson, who had escaped with her parents from Germany during World War II.

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<sup>72</sup> Susan Berg Zuckerman, correspondence with Leonard Jewler, October 3, 2019



Murray Berg, San Diego, latter 1990s (Susan Zuckerman)

Murray passed away in 2002 at age 81. He is remembered as a wonderful father and our best friend. This man never knew a stranger. Unfailingly kind and generous to a fault, family was always his first priority. And as much as he loved his children, his grandchildren became the center of his life.

\* \* \* \* \*

Susan Berg Zuckerman describes the life of her brother, Steven Berg.<sup>73</sup>

After Steven graduated from college, he moved to San Diego as my father had hoped. I had planned to join him but had started dating a St. Louis man who was a professor of medicine at Washington University School of Medicine and was not relocating anywhere; hence my decision to stay in St. Louis where we married in 1976.

Steven continued to thrive in San Diego. With degrees in Geography and Urban Planning, he could not have picked a better spot to begin his career. He landed a job with the City of San Diego and was tasked with the redevelopment of the Embarcadero property downtown.

Several years later, while on a weekend camping trip to Catalina Island, Steven fell in love with the woman who would become his wife, Kris Kouba. Together, they had two beautiful girls, Rebecca and Emily, who were amazing from the moment they were born! I once asked my brother, the “ultimate guy,” if he regretted not having a son. His response was both immediate and emphatic! “Absolutely not. I cannot imagine my life without them!”

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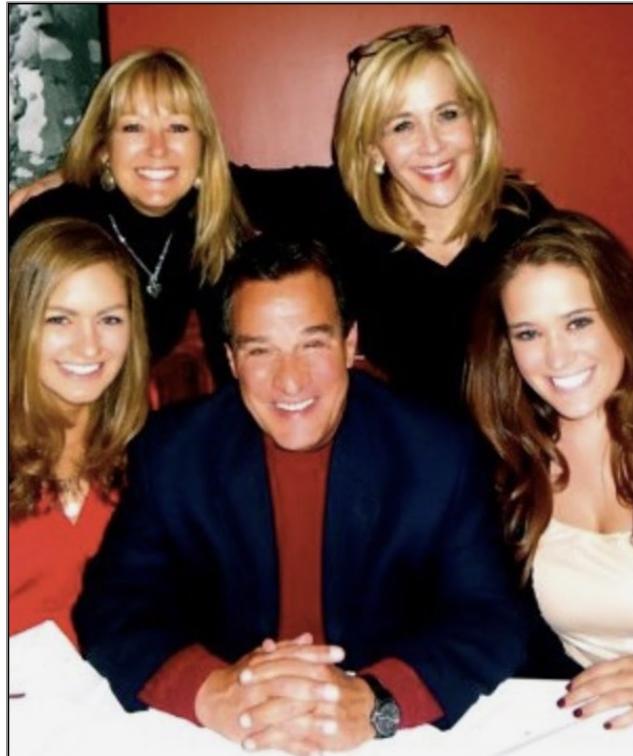
<sup>73</sup> Susan Berg Zuckerman, correspondence with Leonard Jewler, October 20, 2019



Steve and Kris Berg, San Diego, mid-2000s

Eventually, Kris decided her next professional chapter would include a career in residential real estate and San Diego Castle Realty was born. Despite a master's degree in engineering, Kris was also a "big picture" sales and marketing whiz. In what seemed like no time at all, the company was so successful, Steven had to leave his position as head of a large commercial real estate firm to join Kris and he never looked back.

Besides his family, which always came first, Steve's great love was hiking. Almost every year he went on at least one, if not more, of these adventures with his buddies. He often joked the "next" hike was his last one and he was hanging up his boots for good, but all it took was a particular time of year and a singular phone call from a hiking buddy and he was ready for another adventure! However, as much as Steve loved spending time in Yosemite with his hiking buddies, once he started taking the girls with him to Half Dome, he realized unimaginable joy as he showed his girls "the ropes." It was the very best of times.



The Berg family, Columbia, Missouri, 2007  
Top from left: Kris Kouba, Susan Zuckerman  
Bottom from left: Rebecca, Steven, & Emily Berg

Rebecca decided on a career in journalism and was the commencement speaker of her class from the University of Missouri. Shortly after graduation, she relocated to Washington DC and eventually obtained a job as a political correspondent with CNN. Several years later, Emily graduated from UC Santa Barbara and has had a career in event planning, first with CBS and currently with Snap, Inc. Rebecca recently married her longtime boyfriend, Brendan Buck, and Emily is planning to marry her fiancé, Mike Campanizzi, in May 2020.

Steven also had a very close relationship with his niece, my daughter, Lauren Zuckerman Gomez. She adored her “Uncle Stevie Herman” and vice-versa. When Lauren got engaged in 2012 to Javier Gomez, a terrific young man she met at work, we never imagined Steven would not be celebrating with us the following October.

Shortly after the Berg and Jewler families had rendezvoused in DC in 2012 in celebration of Steven’s 60th birthday, we received the terrible news. Steven was diagnosed with adenocarcinoma, a very aggressive form of lung cancer which he would not survive. On the last weekend in May 2013, he succumbed to his disease and the incomprehensible happened. I know I will never not miss him.

Father, brother, son, uncle, cousin and best friend to many, Steven was taken from us far too soon. The younger brother I once teased mercilessly for signing his camp letters, “Love from your son, Steven Ira Berg” was gone.

### *The Next Generation*

The great-grandchildren of Solomon and Minnie Lutsky are marrying and having families of their own. These marriages are identified in chronological order.

Jeffrey Hersh, the son of Manny Hersh and Mona Shufeld, married Lora Berson in 1993 in New York City. They live in Short Hills, New Jersey and have four children.

Cheryl Hersh, the son of Manny Hersh and Mona Shufeld, married Jeffrey Simmons. They live in Salt Lake City, Utah and have three children.

It is not known whether, Shaun and Nicole Weiss, the children of Elaine Hersh and Stanley Weiss, have married.

Lauren Zuckerman, the daughter of Susan Berg and Gary Zuckerman, married Javier Gomez in 2013 in Arlington, Virginia. They live in Los Angeles, California.



Javier and Lauren Gomez at their wedding, Arlington, Virginia, 2013

Rebecca Berg, the daughter of Steve Berg and Kristi Kouba, married Brendan Buck in 2018 in Washington, Virginia. They live in Washington, DC.



Rebecca and Brendan Buck at their wedding, Washington, Virginia, 2018

Sam Jewler, the son of Leonard Jewler and Andrea Rosen, married Katie Ashmore in 2019 in Luray, Virginia. They live in Spokane, Washington.



Samuel Jewler and Katie Ashmore at their wedding, Luray, Virginia, 2019

Sam and Katie decided to change their last names to Zinler. Their rationale<sup>74</sup> for doing so was as follows:

*We decided that we don't believe in passing the man's name to the rest of the family just because it's the man's name. We also didn't want to hyphenate our last names, as the combination of our names didn't sound great to us, and it would just cause headaches for any offspring choosing their own family names in the future. We also didn't want to just keep our own last names, as we wanted us and our child/children to have the same family name.*

*What we like about Zinler is that it comes from the old family names that didn't expect to survive. It comes from Katie's mother's maiden name Tischler, and from the Polish, pre-Americanized version of Sam's mother's maiden name Rosen, which was Rzondinsky. It also mirrors the Ukrainian-Russian, pre-Americanized origin of Jewler, which was Zuler. Though we weren't able to find a way to incorporate Katie's father's last name, Ashmore, we think three out of four is pretty good. It's a mix of old world names that is proudly Jewish and works to undo some of the cultural assimilation that our ancestors may have felt they had to participate in to build their lives in the United States.*

Emily Berg, the daughter of Steve Berg and Kristi Kouba, will marry Mike Campanizzi in May 2020. They live in Los Angeles, California.



Emily Berg and her fiancé Mike Campanizzi, Southern California, 2019

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<sup>74</sup> Based on email correspondence from Samuel (Jewler) Zinler to Leonard Jewler on November 10, 2019.

## CONCLUSION

In this book, I set out to chronicle the lives of my ancestors and establish the story of my family. In the early and mid-twentieth century, the Matesky, Lutsky, and Garbus families, like so many others from Europe, suffered a dramatic rupture with its past. After living in the same region, perhaps for centuries, the locus of the family shifted to the far away Americas and to Israel. After knowing their place in the world from living there so long, the family adapted to their new environs and started life anew. By the second generation in the new lands, there was little collective memory of the ancestral life. As time passed, the immigrant generation passed on, and with them, the direct knowledge of a way of life practiced for generations.

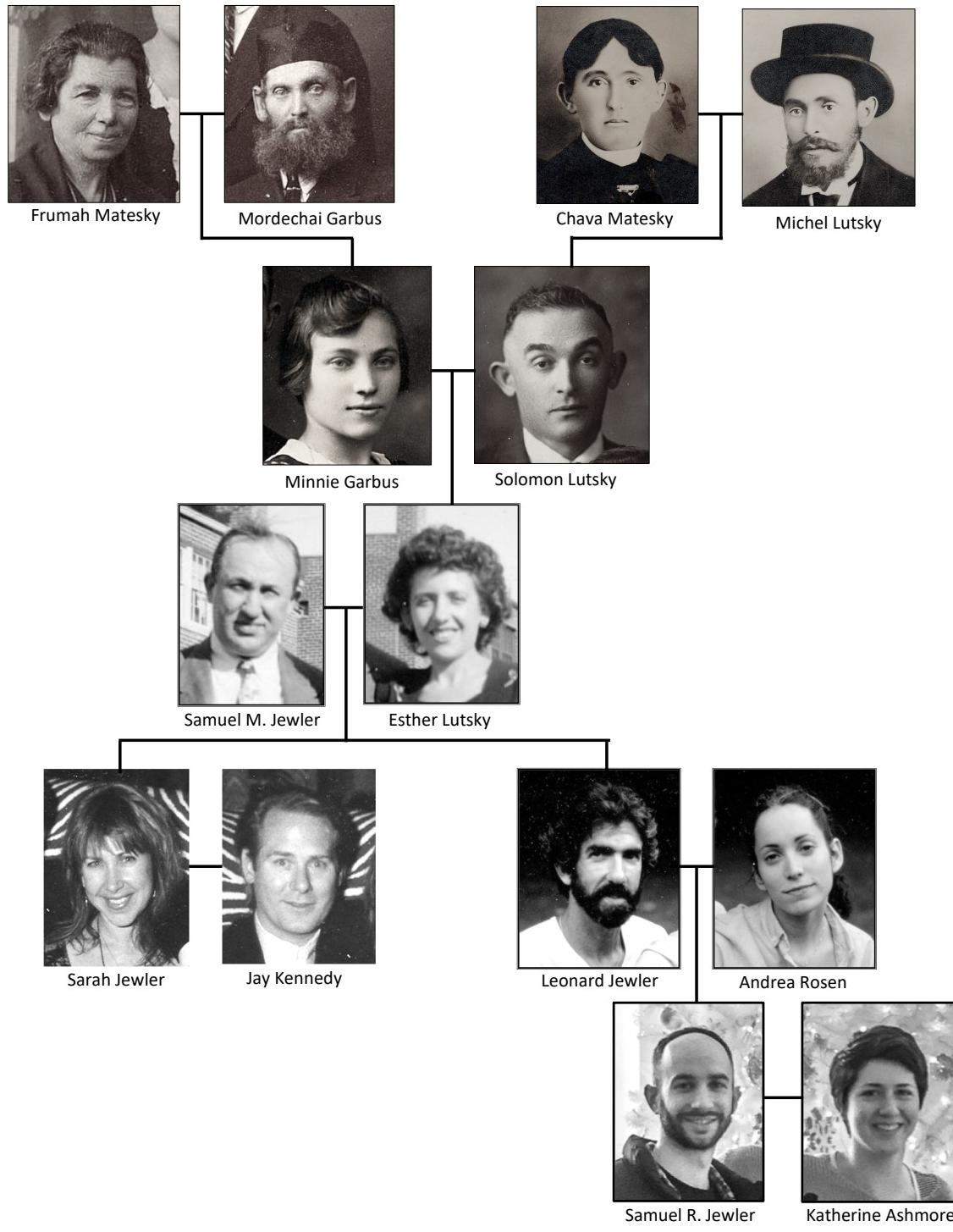
The memories of the people recorded here allow us to travel to earlier places and times. They provide us with a fleeting view of everyday life with its joys, challenges, and tragedies. The people are gone but their stories remain.

*[The stories] are about what it means to be a member of a certain family and in that sense have a larger worth to a greater number of people, and for that reason are surely worth preserving.<sup>75</sup>*

At this distance from the events, in the second decade of the twenty-first century, we may need to accept that we can only assemble the fragments of the story – the photos, narratives, historic documents – and realize that the larger narrative of a family cannot be written. And yet, these fragments of the lost lives of our ancestors are moving, and taken together, present the chronicle of the Matesky, Lutsky, and Garbus families through the generations.

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<sup>75</sup> Daniel Mendelsohn, *The Lost*, page 434



## APPENDIX A – DESCENDANT CHARTS

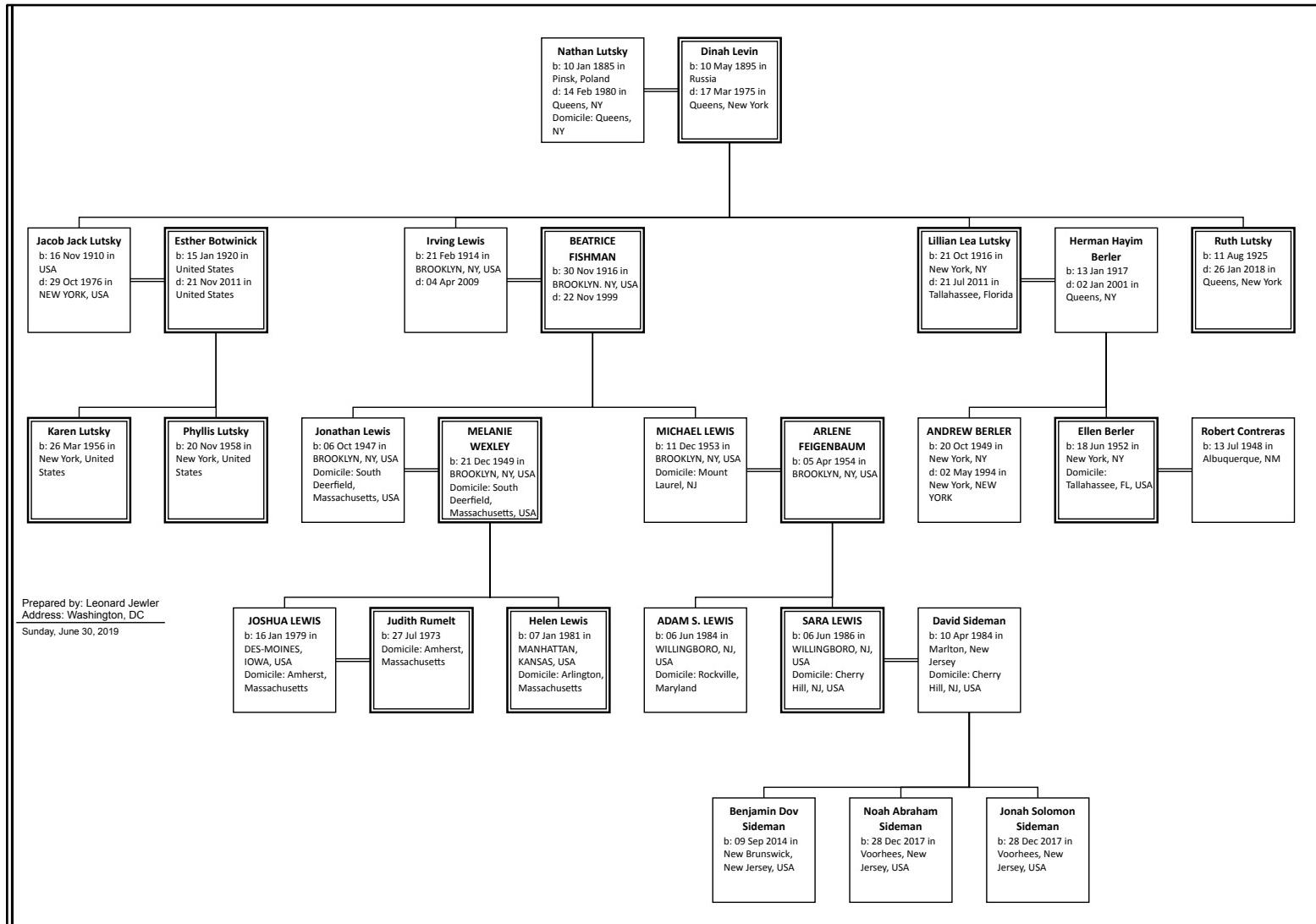
### **Lutsky Family**

- A-3: Nathan Lutsky and Dinah Levin
- A-4: Solomon Lutsky and Minnie Garbus
- A-6: Haya Lutsky and David Shlomovitz
- A-11: Bernard Lutsky and Flora Simon
- A-13: Rivka Lutsky and Chayim Matesky
- A-15: Jacob Lutsky and Miriam Kerbel
- A-16: Yehudit Lutsky and Baruch Treister

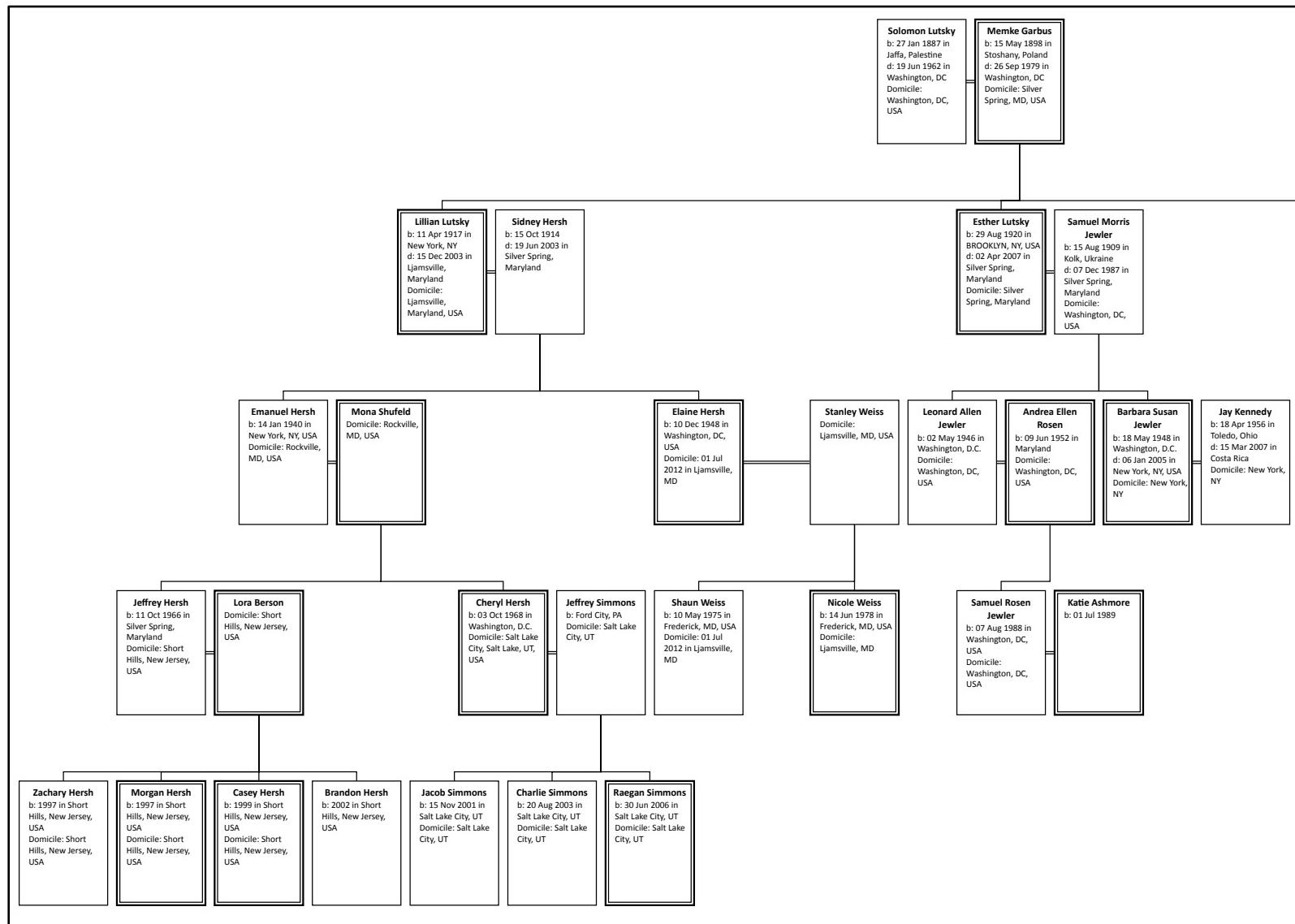
### **Matesky Family**

- A-18: Marsha Matesky and [unknown] Pilchick
- A-19: Memka Matesky and [unknown] Begin
- A-20: Dina Matesky and Yehuda Zevulin Klitnick

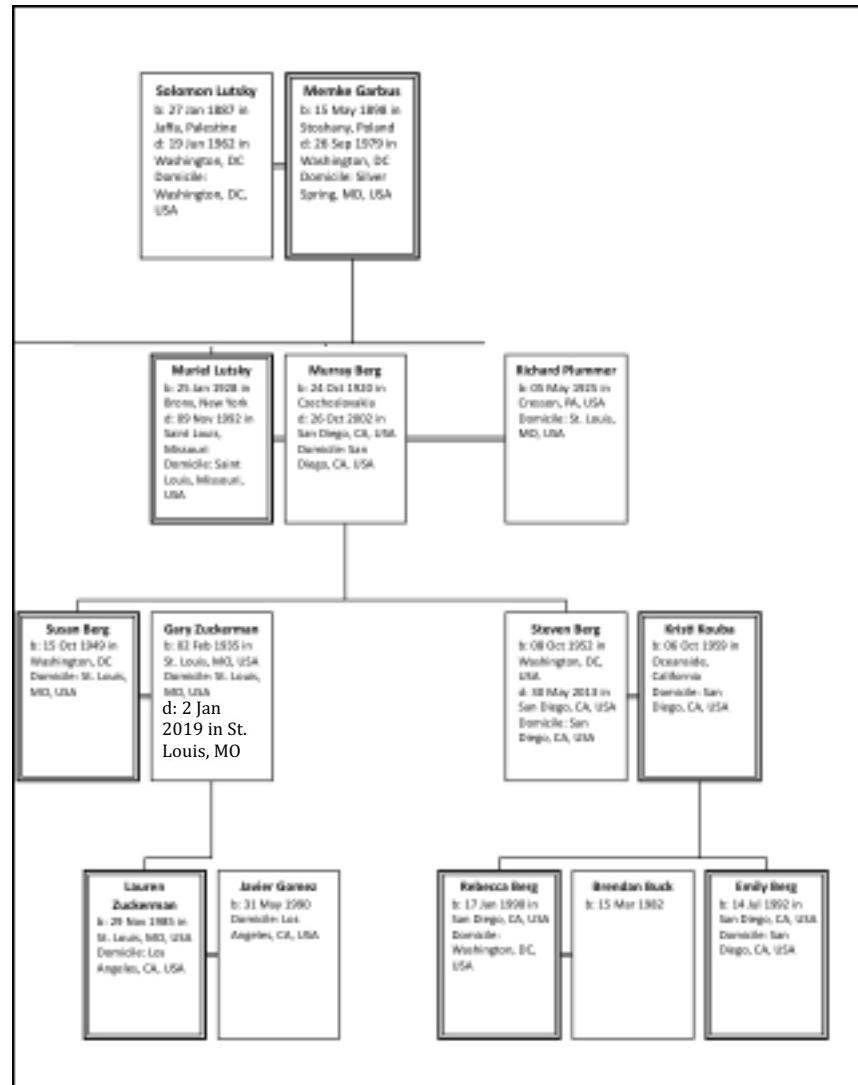
## **Lutsky Family Descendant Charts**



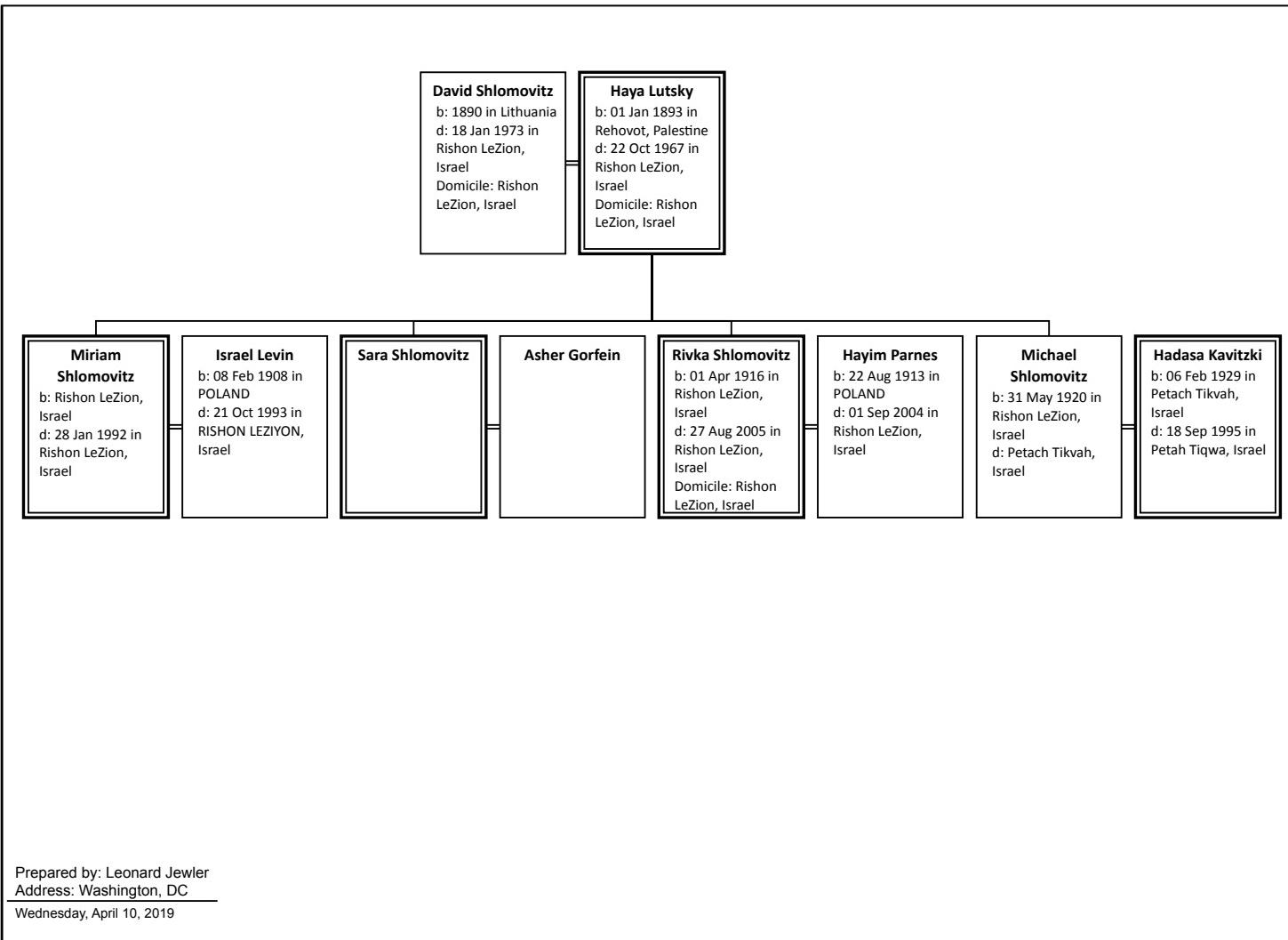
Descendants of Nathan Lutsky and Dinah Levin



Descendants of Solomon Lutsky and Minnie Garbus (page 1 of 2)

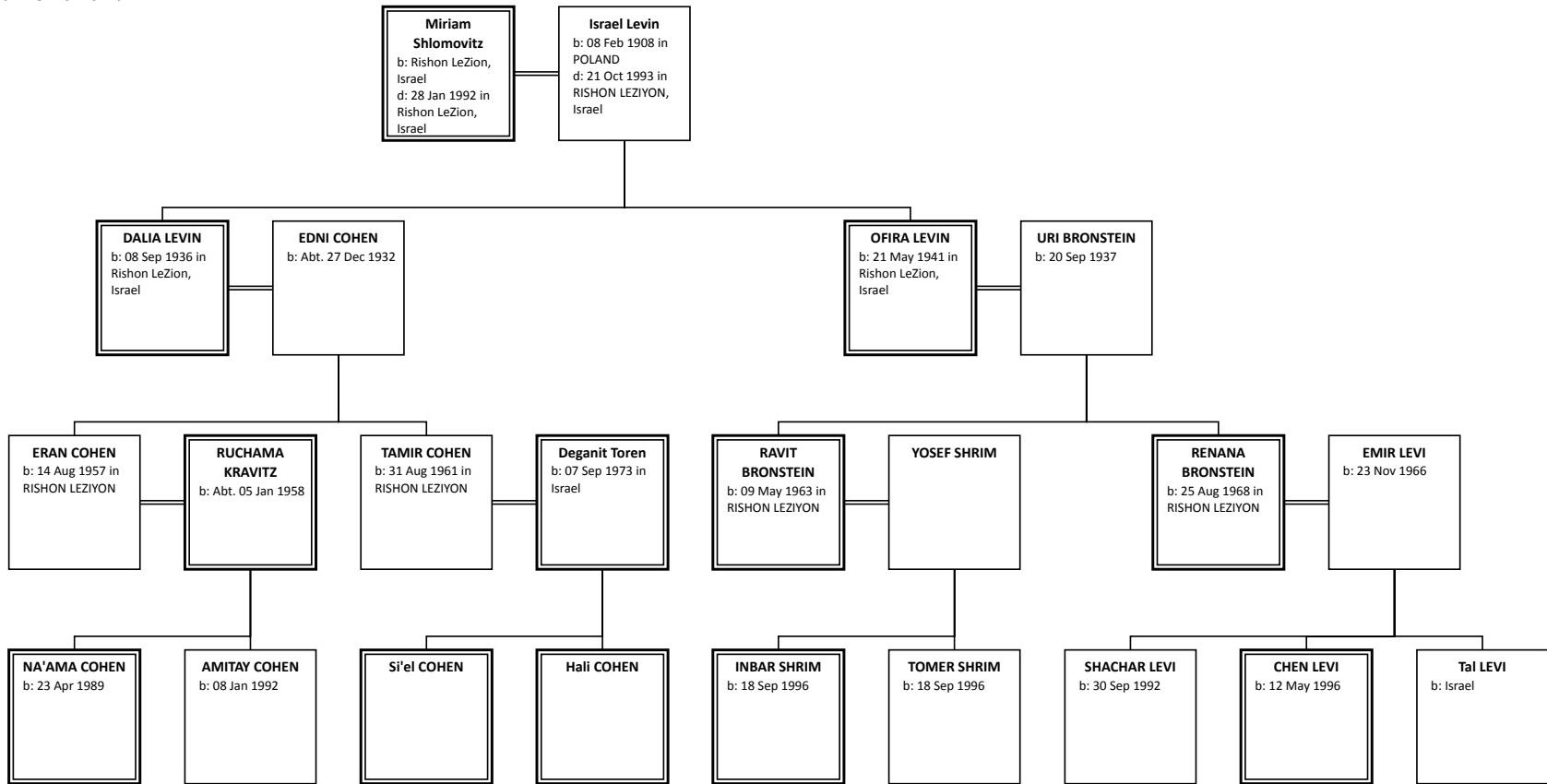


Descendants of Solomon Lutsky and Minnie Garbus (page 2 of 2)



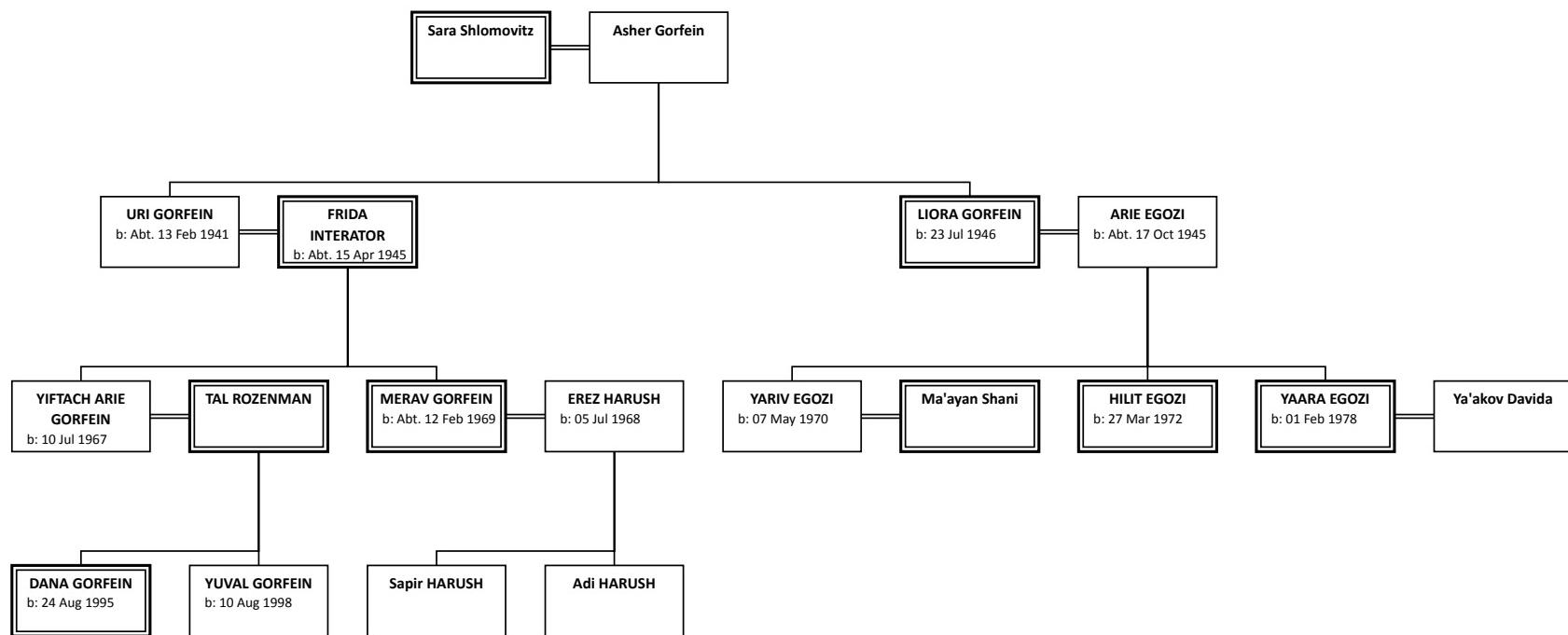
Descendants of Haya Lutsky and David Shlomovitz (page 1 of 5)

**Descendant Chart for  
Miriam Shlomovitz**

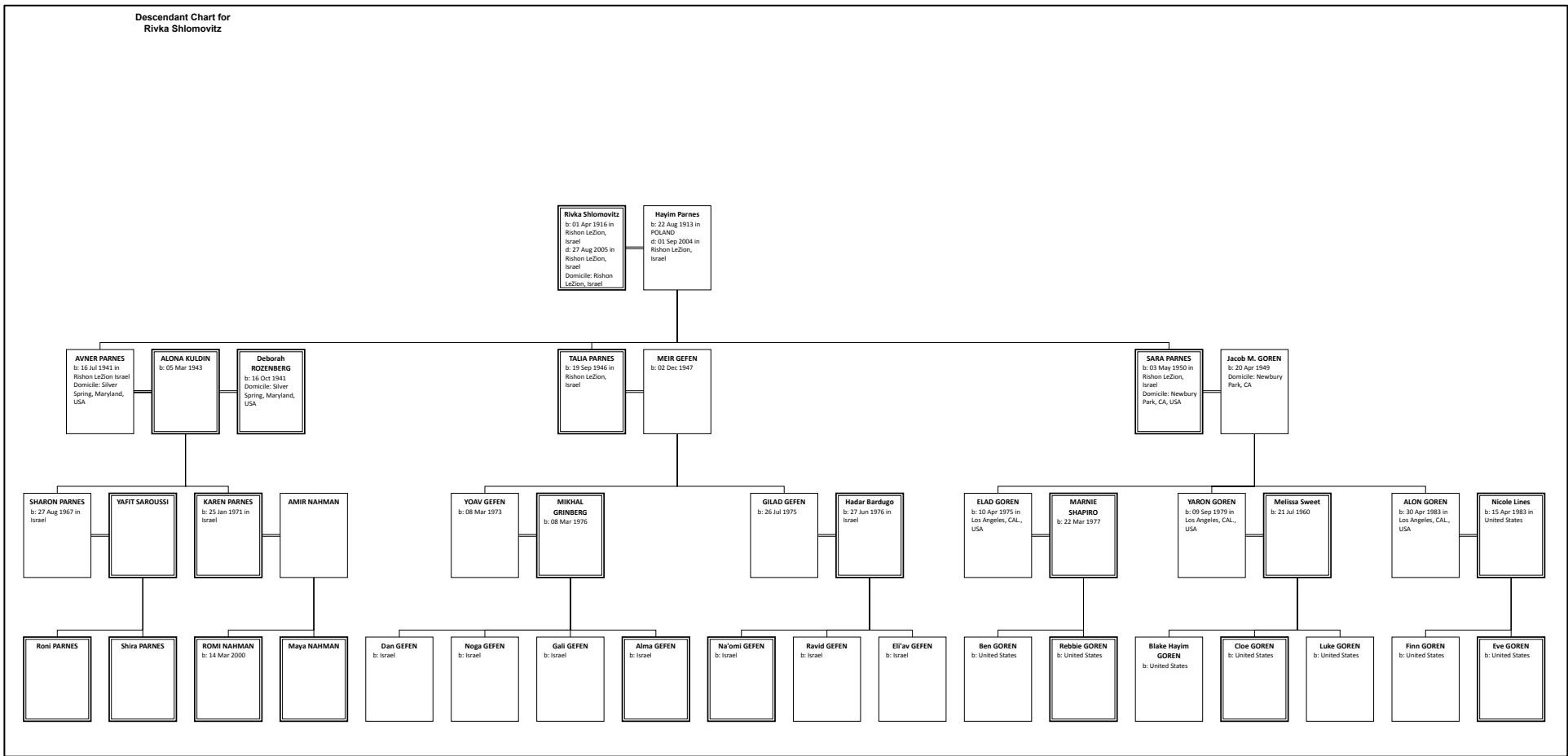


Descendants of Haya Lutsky and David Shlomovitz (page 2 of 5)

Descendant Chart for  
Sara Shlomovitz

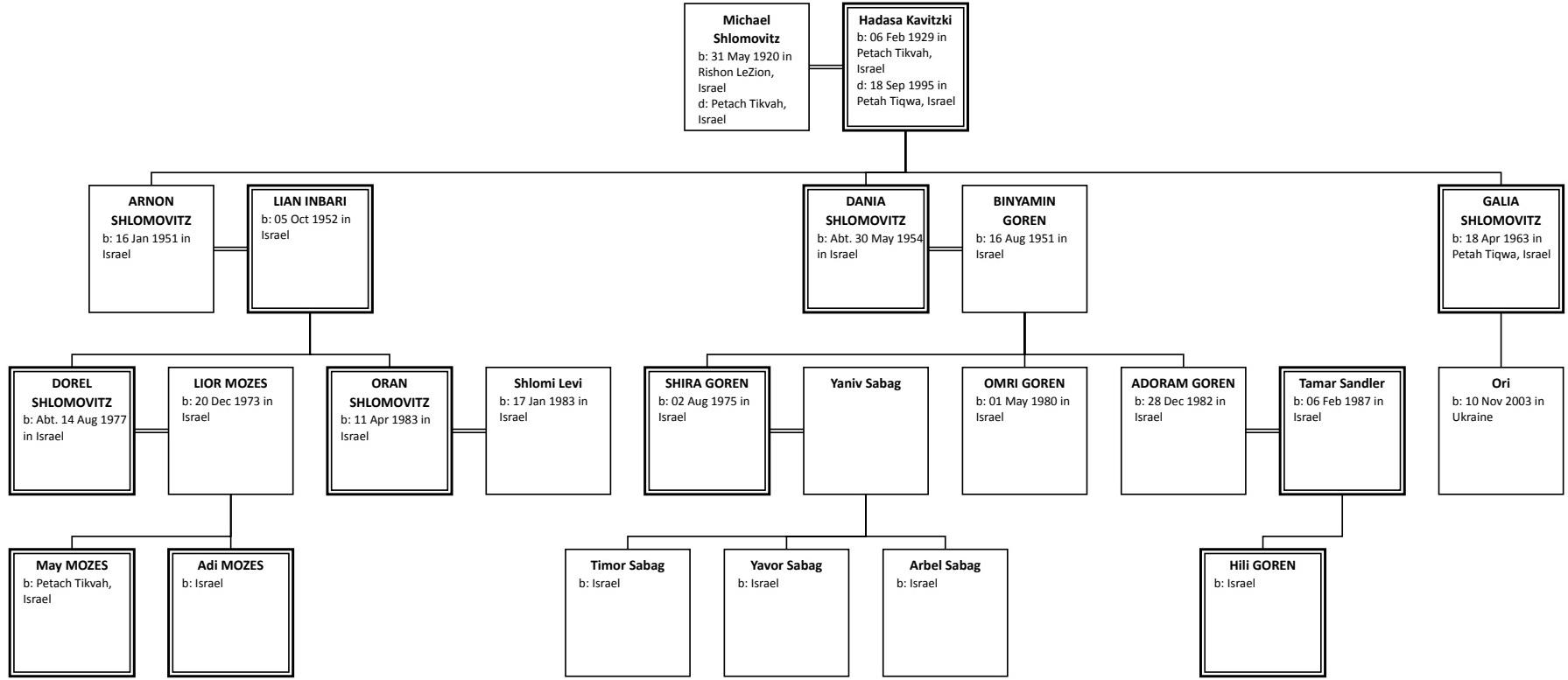


Descendants of Haya Lutsky and David Shlomovitz (page 3 of 5)

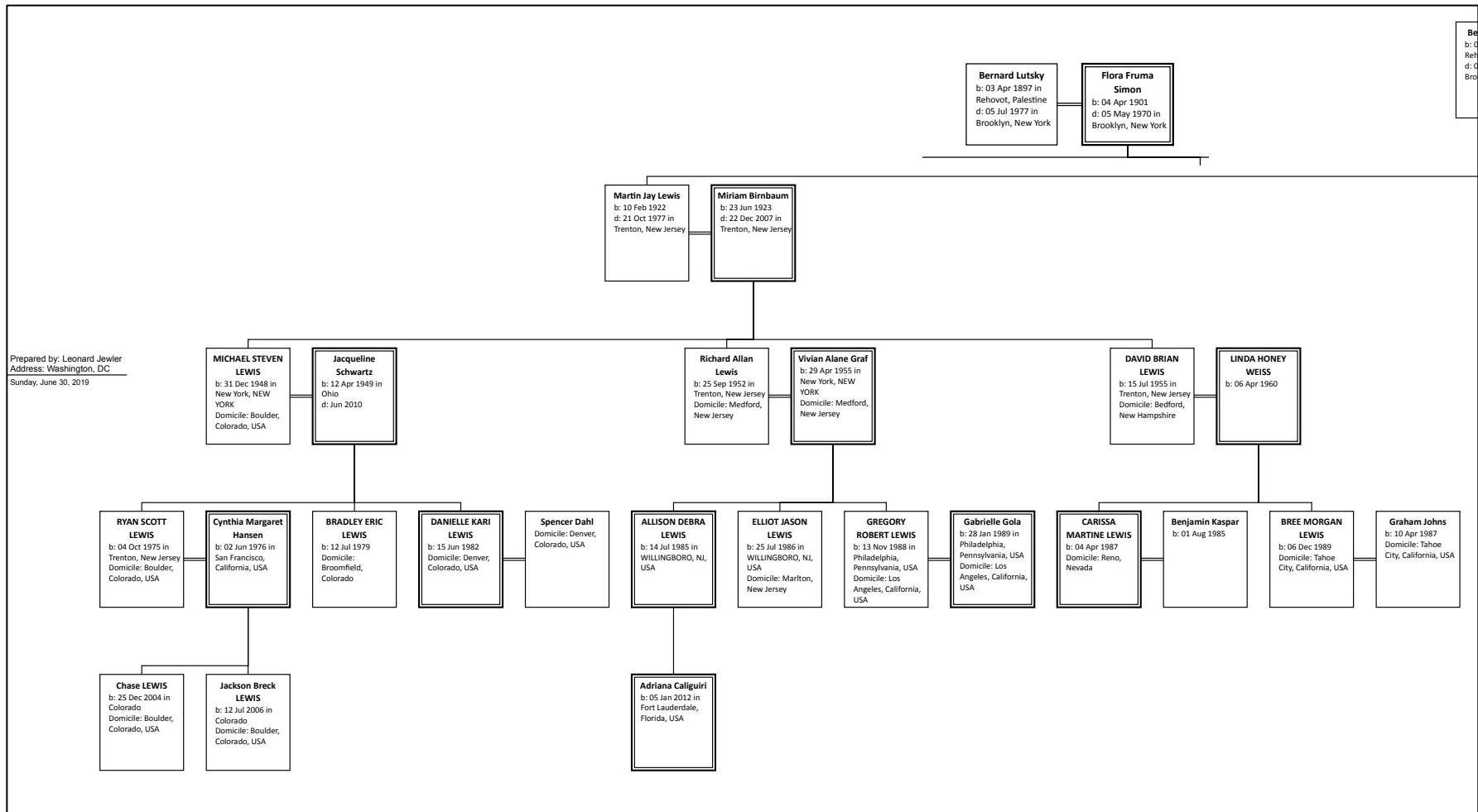


Descendants of Haya Lutsky and David Shlomovitz (page 4 of 5)

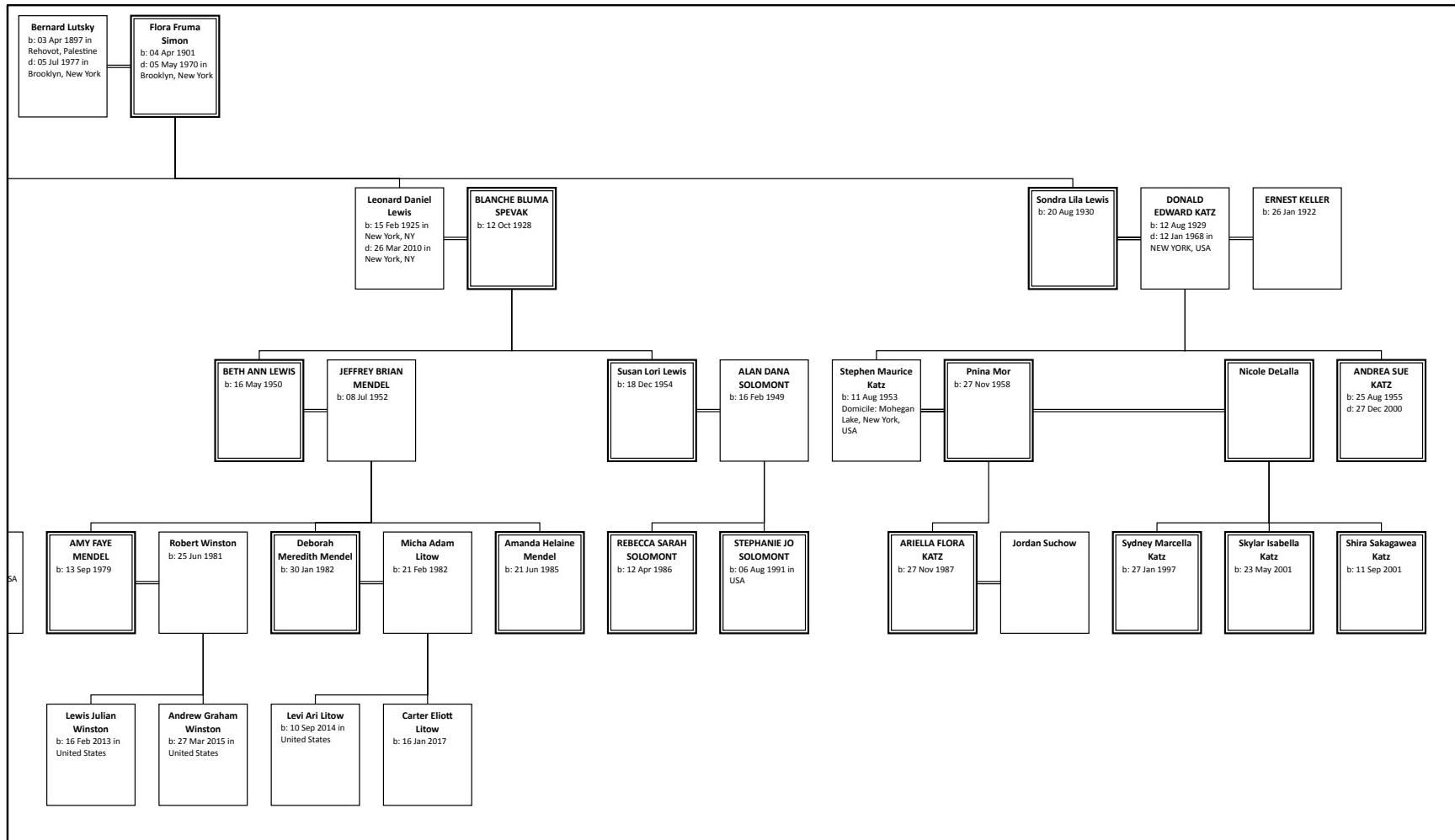
**Descendant Chart for  
Michael Shlomovitz**



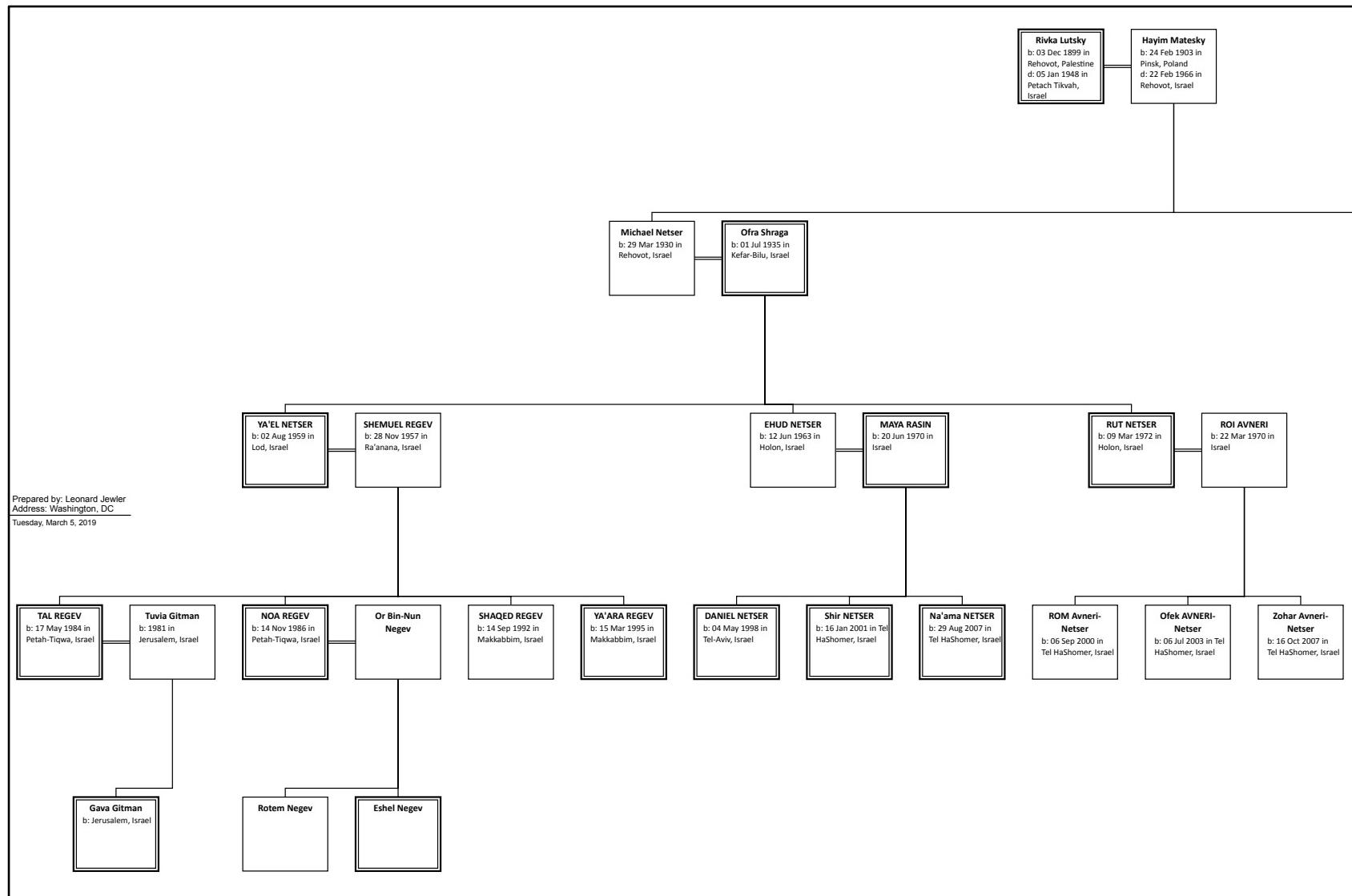
Descendants of Haya Lutsky and David Shlomovitz (page 5 of 5)



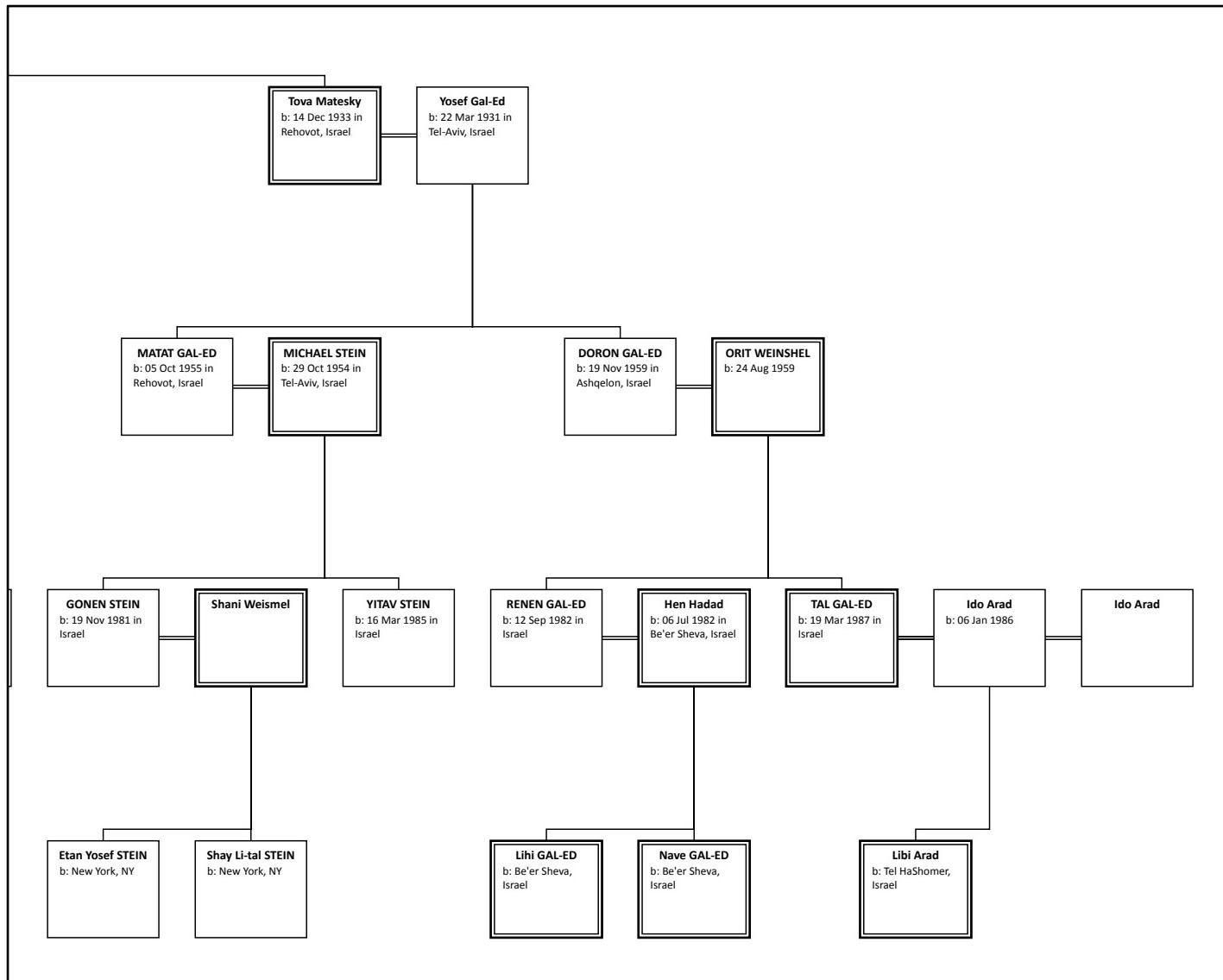
Descendants of Bernard Lutsky and Flora Fruma Simon (page 1 of 2)



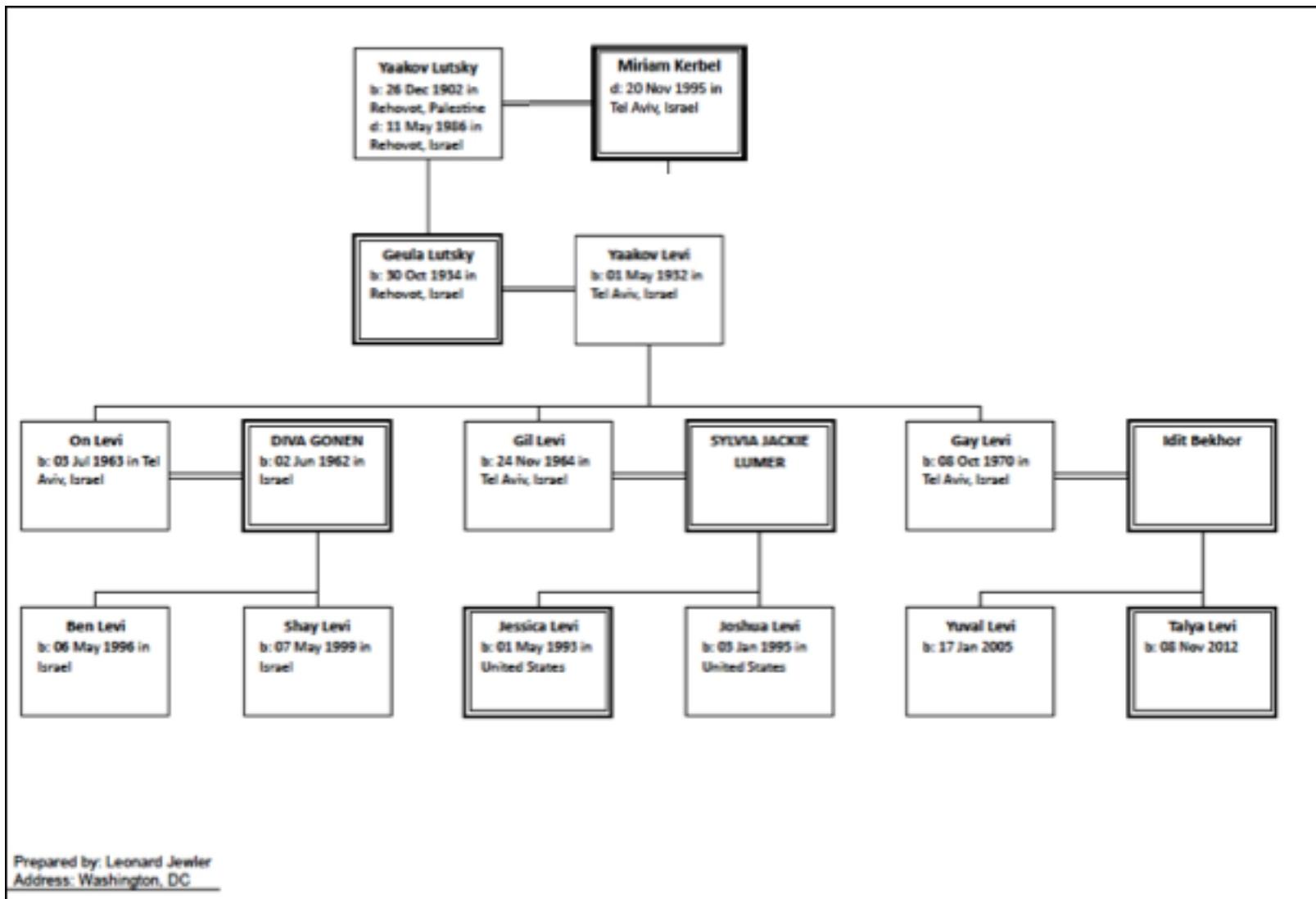
Descendants of Bernard Lutsky and Flora Fruma Simon (page 2 of 2)



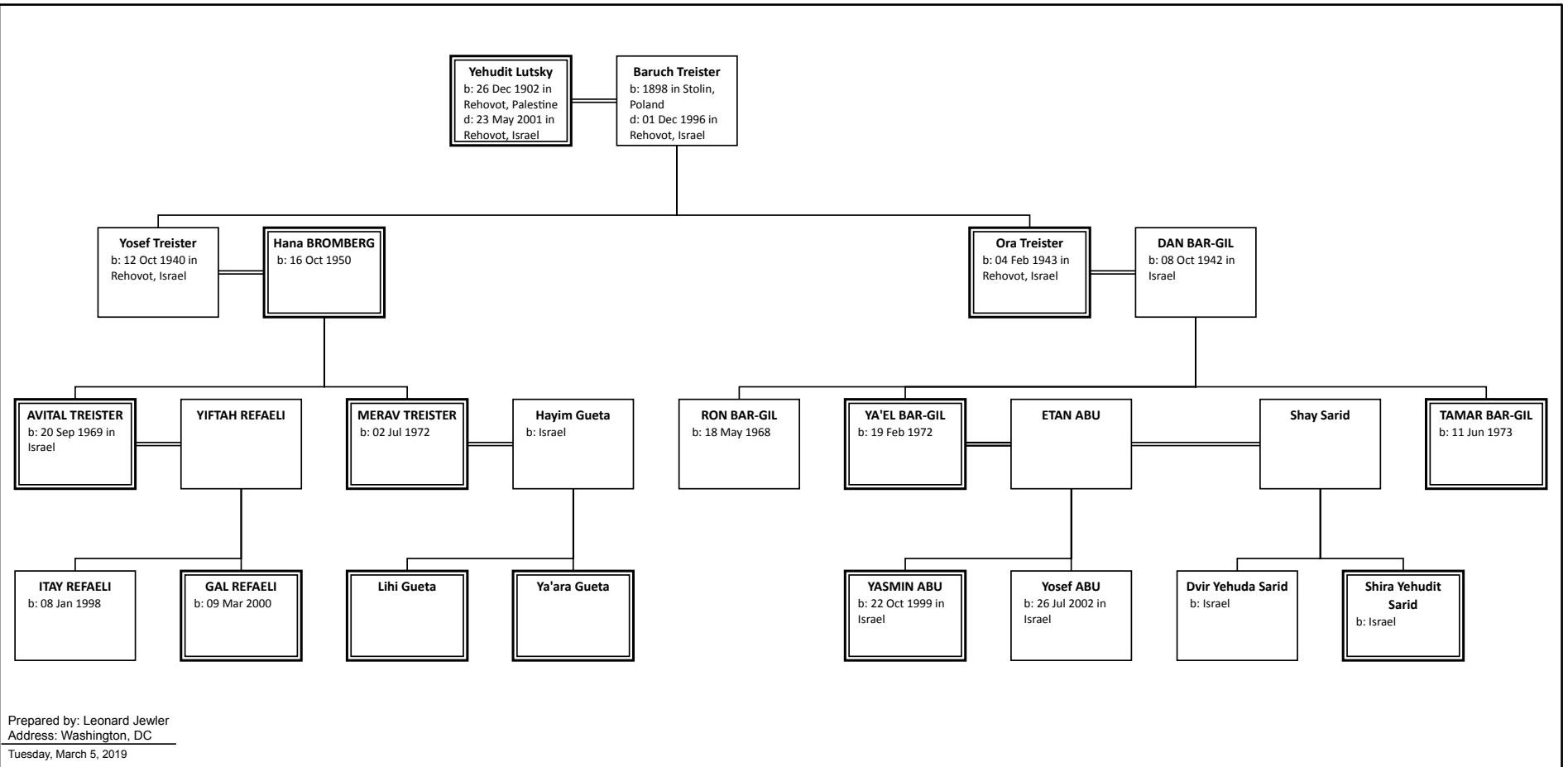
Descendants of Rivka Lutsky and Chayim Matesky (page 1 of 2)



Descendants of Rivka Lutsky and Chayim Matesky (page 2 of 2)

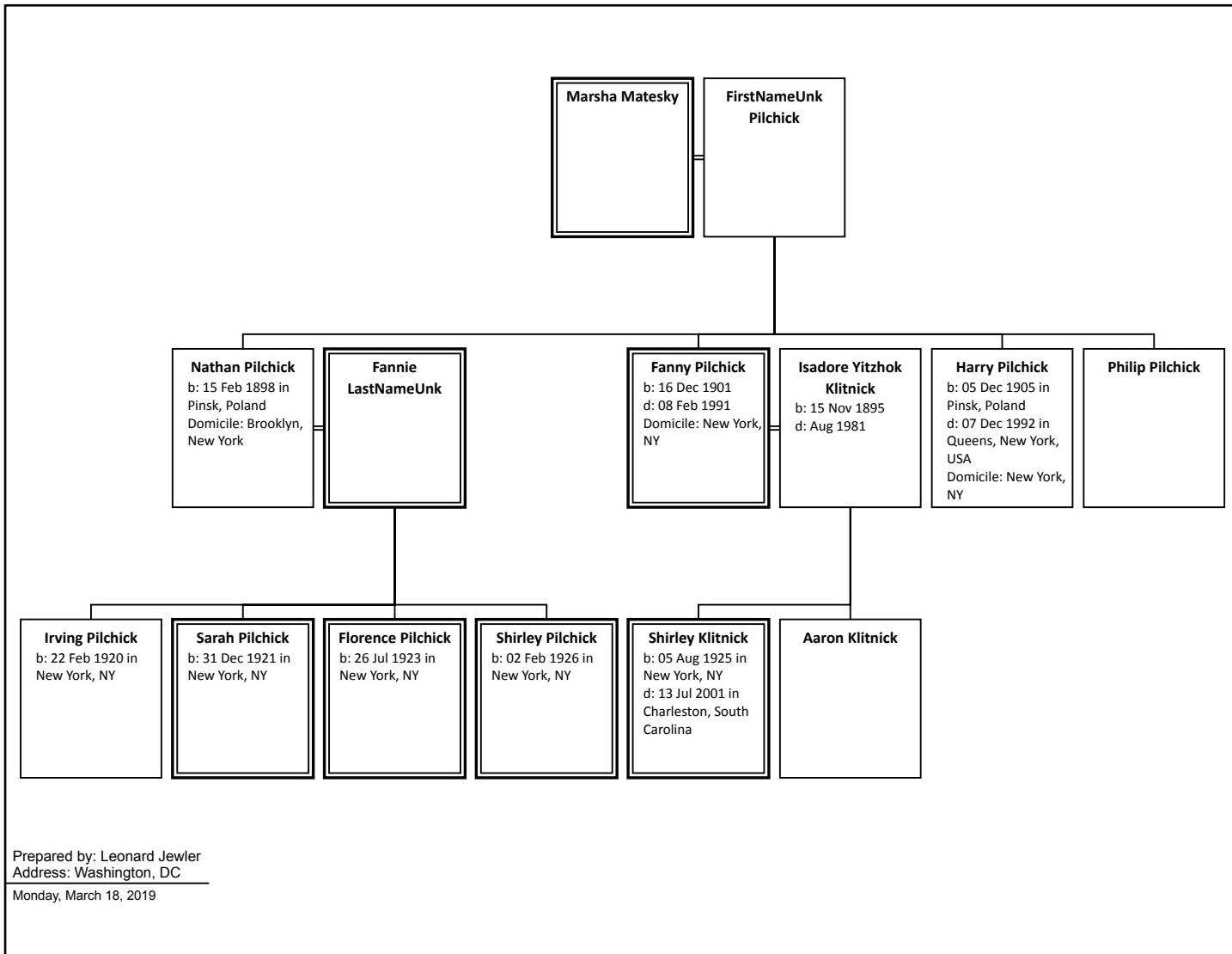


Descendants of Jacob Ya'akov Lutsky and Miriam Kerbel

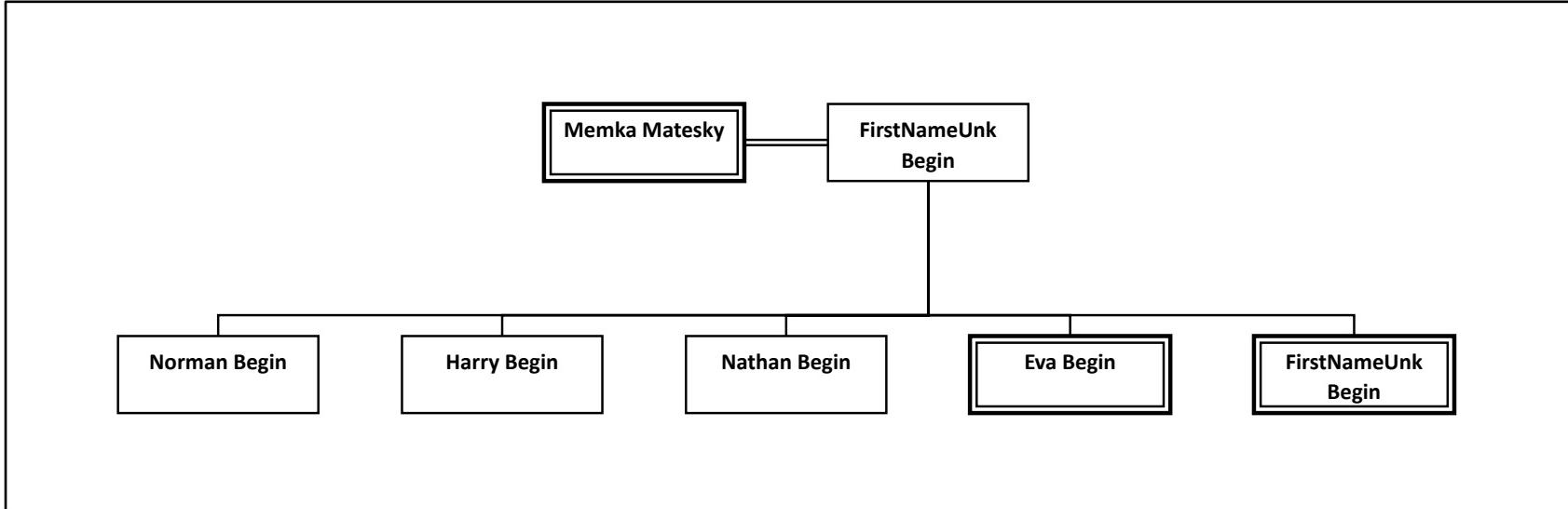


Descendants of Yehudit Lutsky and Baruch Treister

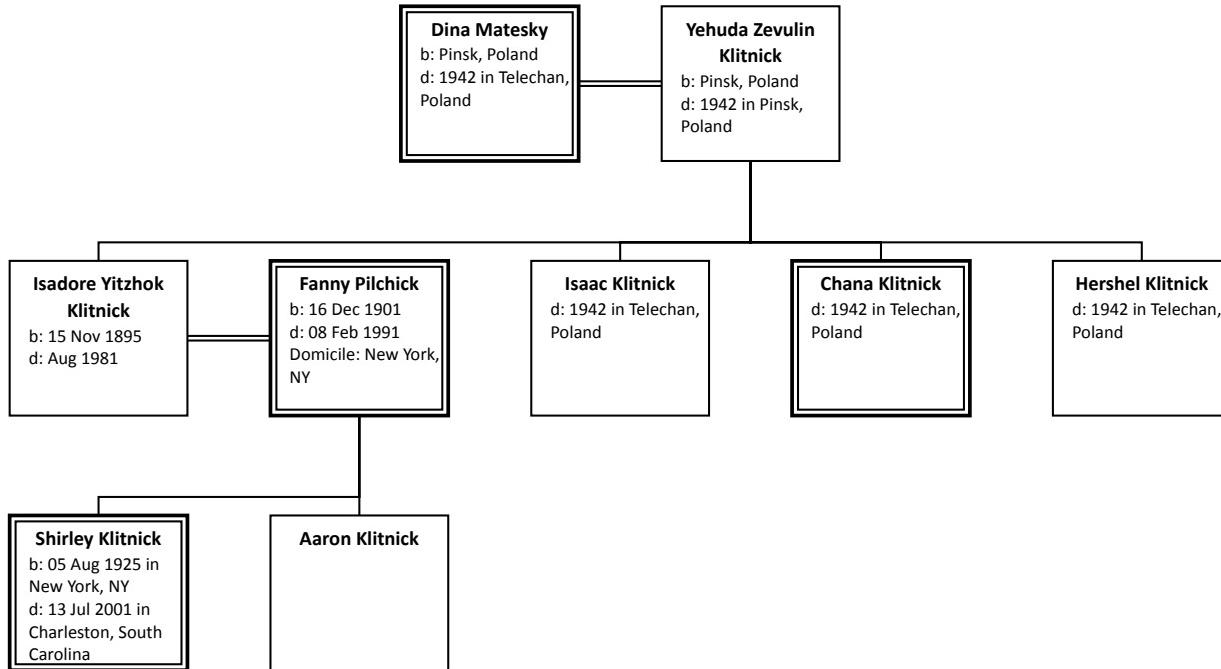
## Matesky Family Descendant Charts



Descendants of Marsha Matesky and [unknown] Pilchick



Descendants of Memka Matesky and [unknown] Begin



Prepared by: Leonard Jewler  
Address: Washington, DC  
Monday, March 18, 2019

Descendants of Dina Matesky and Yehuda Zevulin Klitnick

## APPENDIX B - MORE REMINISCENCES OF ESTHER

The Best Shopper in Town

# Esther Jewler is 80!

My name is: Lee Mensh

I have known Esther since: 1985

My favorite "Esther" story is:

*Esther and I have been friends for the past 15 yrs. For the last 8 or 9 yrs., we have been going ...  
morning, starting at 9:30 A.M. returning home between 3 & 4 P.M.  
changing clothes, picking up my husband, Marc and friend,  
Dorothy Simmons and off again for dinner.*

*One day Esther spoke to me about letting her hair grow in  
in its natural state. With much encouragement from me  
she decided to do so, and thus her hair became silver the  
same color as mine. Since we are 2 giants under 5 ft. tall,  
same height, same color hair, we are constantly asked if  
we are twins. This occurs every single Saturday.*

*By the way, did I mention that our Saturday excursions  
are lots of fun and fruitful? And above all, Esther  
is the best shopper in town.*

*Esther is a wonderful person and a great friend, and  
may there be many more healthy, happy birthdays  
in her future!*

The writer, Lee Mensh, was a friend of Esther's at Leisure World. Her husband, Mark, had a grocery store on Ontario Road in Washington several blocks from Jewler's Champlain Market and was a friendly competitor for decades.

## Where the Girls Are

My name is:  
MARCIA BURGER

I have known Esther since: 1970

My favorite "Esther" story is:

Esther joined several friends to spend a weekend at my Bethany Beach, Delaware beach house. We went shopping for groceries. We returned to my house, the center of 3 townhouses. I wondered where the girls disappeared for I was in my kitchen putting away some groceries. After awhile the girls showed up laughing. They went into the wrong house next door. Esther was trying to put groceries in the refrigerator when one of the ladies shouted wrong house when she went into the bedroom (it was a den instead). We had a good laugh.

The writer, Marcia Burger, was a friend of Esther's at Leisure World. They originally met as co-workers at the U.S. Labor Department. They lived in the same building at Leisure World.

## She Does Everything

My name is: Gertrude Benezra

I have known Esther since: 1991

My favorite "Esther" story is: not a story, but statements of her wonderful way of life. Esther manages to do just about everything. Her aerobics, her dedication to Hadassah, her bowling; her canasta games, her vast amount of magazines and papers she absorbs. She is also a great cook and baker. Oh, yes, she also waters my plants in Sept. What more can I say. She is a wonderful person and I love her.

The writer, Gertrude Benezra, was a friend of Esther's at Leisure World. Esther and Gertrude played Canasta together and lived in the same building at Leisure World.

## Mother's Day and Masonic Trips

Dear Esther,

"Happy Birthday" to you.

Mort and I go back many many years since we met you and Sam. Those were wonderful years, and wonderful times. We became wonderful friends and had wonderful times together.

Remember a special "Mother's Day". We all, the both families, our children, and your mom and mine celebrated all together at the Country Club. what a beautiful time we all had.

Mort and I could never forget.

We always think about all the good times we had when we always joined you and Sam to all the Masonic trips to the Catskill Mountains Hotels. What fun and what great times we had all the time.

Through the years we always kept together! Our children met each other and became good friends.

For many years we worked close close to each other and always enjoyed our time together. All of us.

Then we moved to Leisure World and so did you and Sam. Our children were on their own and very happy. We love them all.

You are our best friend always and we wish you all the happiness and all our love to you and your dear children.

Esther our best to you always  
Rhoda & Morty

The writers, Rhoda and Morty Fink, had been friends with Esther and Sam since the 1950s. They met through Esther's sister, Lilly, who worked with Rhoda at the Evening Star newspaper and later at the D.C. government Department of Taxation. Rhoda and Esther participated in a weekly ladies bowling group. Until 2001, Rhoda and Morty lived in Leisure World.

Quite a Lady

My name is: Ruth Lewis

I have known Esther since: 1981

My favorite "Esther" story is:

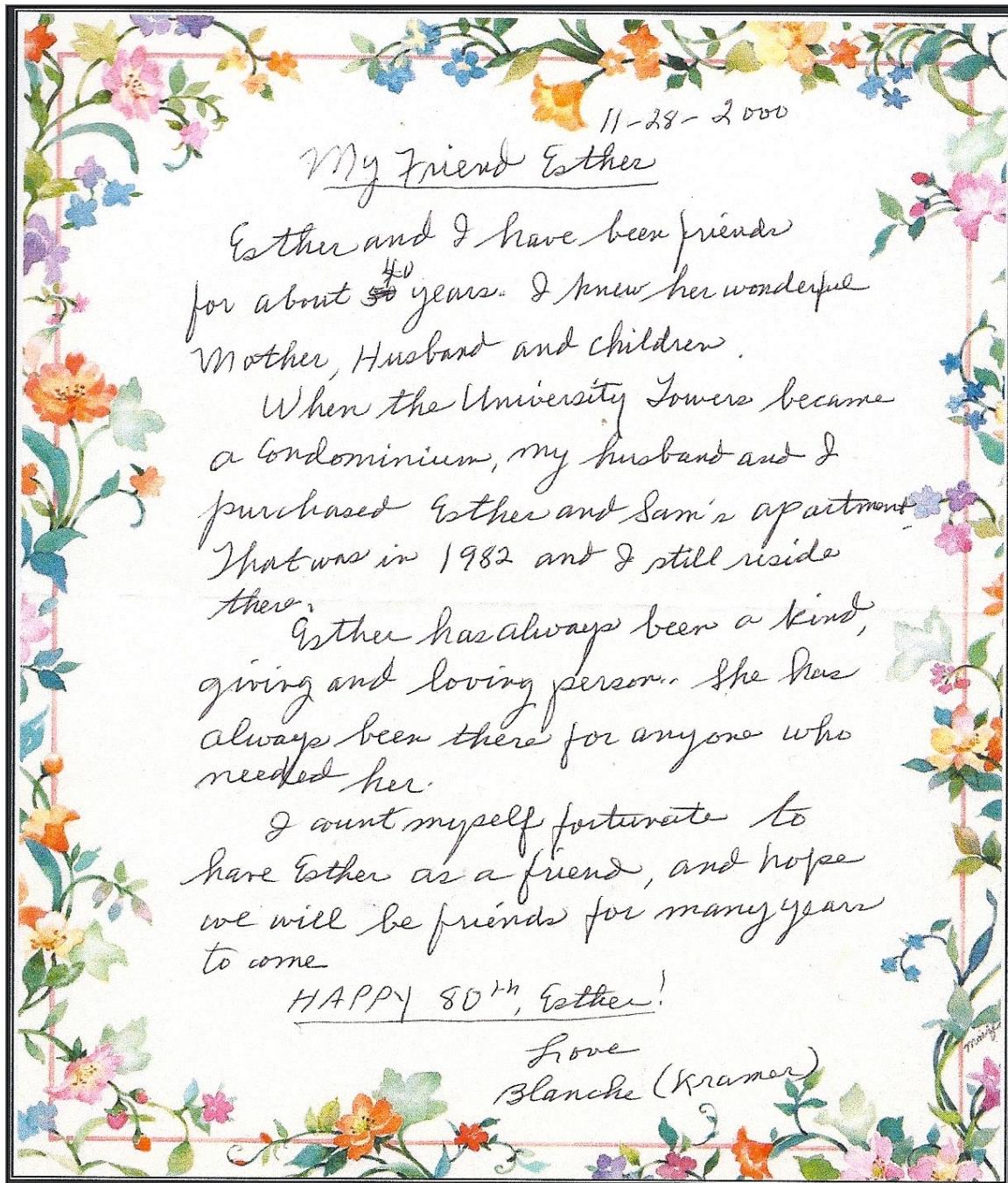
I met Esther almost twenty years ago, but we did not become close friends until my husband passed away in 1989. Esther was instrumental in getting me out of the apartment on Sundays. She said it was important and necessary to be with people. I shall be forever grateful to Esther for that pep talk. In many years now, Sunday outings - to the movies or theatre and dinner have continued unless family affairs occur.

Esther and TS May are a team. One time she bought a sweater there, and I admired it. She told me there was another in the store and drove me back to buy it. Bargains and Esther are interwoven. She dresses well and has excellent taste, but the article has to have been reduced at least twice before Esther will buy it.

Ruth a lady, your mother!

The writer, Ruth Lewis, was a friend of Esther's at Leisure World. The two of them met through Hadassah and lived in the same building at Leisure World.

Always There When Needed



The writer, Blanche Kramer, had been a friend of Esther's since the 1960s when they met as co-workers at the U.S. Department of Labor. Blanche lived in University Towers in the apartment where Sam and Esther previously lived.

## A Small Woman with a Big Heart

*My name is:* Marion Kohn

*I have known Esther since:* September, 1985

*My favorite "Esther" story is:* Just having the opportunity to have the pleasure of knowing a very special person. Milt and I have known Esther since moving to Leisure World 15 years ago. Although she is a very petite woman she has a "big heart" and is such a caring person which radiates from her head to toes. If she can be of any help she is always there with open arms. Esther has given many hours to help our fund raising organizations in Leisure World. She is a credit to the community. In particular, whenever we had our "Gin Rummy Games" at her home her cookies were delicious. Esther has especially made my Tuesday's a very pleasurable day as this is our bowling day. Her bowling is one for the records.

I especially want to tell her family how proud she is of all of you and your many accomplishments! No one could ever ask for a more loving friend and for this Esther I want to say thanks for the opportunity to be your friend.

Esther I can only say that Milt and I wish you the best of everything from the bottom of our hearts. Happy 80th birthday. May you have good health and many more. You are terrific.

Marion and Milton Kohn

The writers, Marion and Milton Kohn, were friends of Esther's at Leisure World. Milt is a former liquor salesman who used to call on Jewler's Champlain Market. Marion and Esther participated in a weekly ladies bowling group.

The Giver

My name is: *Ethel Weiss*

I have known Esther since: 1988

My favorite "Esther" story is: *Esther is the kind of person who gives<sup>s</sup> herself unstintingly and seldom asks for anything in return.*

*For many years now I have enjoyed a loyal and loving friendship - the kind of friendship where I have always felt at home.*

*I taught her the game of "canasta" which we enjoy with togetherness - and with dinner and the game afterward.*

*Shopping with Esther is an interesting adventure as she combs the racks for bargains.*

*I want to express my fervent wishes to Esther & her family for many years - "bis hundert mit t'wantig" for good health and happiness and as Esther would add "from your mouth to God's ears."*

The writer, Ethel Weiss, was a friend of Esther's at Leisure World. She was a former teacher at Washington's Janney Elementary School. Ethel taught Esther to play canasta.

Two Mothers

# Esther Jewler is 80!

My name is: JEAN KENNEDY

Here we are, two mothers who would never have met if Jay and Sarah hadn't decided to share their lives. And what a joy it was to find we really like and respect each other. It is always a comfort to know there is someone who cares about Jay's and Sarah's well-being as much as we do. The "we" includes Bill ~~who seems to be left out of this~~ but who feels as strongly about Esther and her family as I do. We are all blessed!



Jean and Bill Kennedy were Jay Kennedy's parents and knew Esther since 1988 when Sarah and Jay met.

An Outstretched Hand

My name is: Anne Kimball

I have known Esther since: 1992

My favorite "Esther" story is:

On this very special occasion it gives me great pleasure to contribute a few words towards Esther's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday album.

I met Esther in 1992 when I moved from New Haven, CT with my husband into this marvelous building. After my husband passed away Esther was so kind to take me under her wing and included me with her friends in all their activities. I will always be most appreciative to her for all the support and kindness she extended to me.

Esther will always be my dearest and cherished friend She yet to know

May she have many, many more years of healthy birthdays and to continue to celebrate with her family and friends

The writer, Ann Kimball, was a friend of Esther's at Leisure World. The two of them played canasta together and lived in the same building at Leisure World.

## APPENDIX C - CHRONOLOGY OF SOLOMON AND MINNIE LUTSKY'S FAMILY

Date	Event
Mid 1830s (est.)	Eliezer Matesky and Sarah Lea [Unknown] born in Czarist Russia
Jul. 22, 1861	Chava Matesky born in Pinsk in Czarist Russia to Eliezer and Sarah Lea Matesky
1865	Michel Lutsky born in Czarist Russia to Shalom and [Unknown] Lutsky
Early 1870s (est.)	Mordechai Garbus born in Czarist Russia
Early 1870s (est.)	Frumah Matesky born in Czarist Russia to Eliezer and Sarah Lea Matesky
1886	Solomon Lutsky's parents, Michel and Chava Lutsky, flee Pinsk, Russia to Palestine
Jan. 27, 1887	Solomon Lutsky (Hebrew name Shalom) born in Jaffa, Palestine to Michel and Chava Lutsky
May 15, 1898	Minnie Garbus (Hebrew name Memke) born in Pinsk in Czarist Russia to Mordechai and Frumah Garbus
Aug. 15, 1909	Samuel Morris Jewler (Hebrew name Shimon) born in Kolk, Ukraine, the first child of Max and Sadie Jewler
1911	Solomon becomes seaman, jumps ship in Boston at age 25, and travels to New York to live at apartment of Aunt Masha Pilchik
Sep. 13, 1913	Minnie flees Pinsk at age 16 after criticizing the Czar, crosses the Atlantic Ocean in steerage, and travels to New York to live at apartment of Aunt Masha Pilchik
Jul. 8, 1915	Michel Lutsky dies in Palestine
Sep. 10, 1916	Solomon and Minnie marry in New York City at a synagogue on 126 Forsyth Street; they live in walk-up on 72 East 97 <sup>th</sup> Street
Apr. 11, 1918	Lillian Lutsky (Hebrew name Sarah Lea) born in Manhattan, New York, the first child of Sol and Minnie Lutsky
Aug. 29, 1920	Esther Lutsky (Hebrew name Hadassah) born in Brooklyn, New York, the second child of Sol and Minnie Lutsky
1922	Solomon opens second store selling hardware and house furnishings at 4510 Fort Hamilton Parkway in Borough Park, Brooklyn; Sol attends preparatory school to learn English and carpentry
1927	Solomon sells second store; Lutsky family moves to Bronx Solomon opens third store at Elder and Watson Avenue in Bronx
Jan. 25, 1928	Muriel Lutsky (Hebrew name Michla) born in Bronx, New York, the third child of Sol and Minnie Lutsky
1929-30	Third store, in Bronx, lost in Depression; Fourth store (original second store) repurchased in Borough Park
1933	Fourth store, in Borough Park, lost in Depression; Sol becomes door-to-door salesman; Minnie enters school to learn to read and write English
Mid 1930's	Sol works for his brother Bernard Lutsky at Franklin Machine Company at 633 Broadway in New York; Minnie takes in sewing for extra income; Lutsky family moves to Herzel Street in Brownsville, New York
1936	Esther attends Washington Irving High School to study dress designing

Date	Event
1937-39	Esther attends Thomas Jefferson High School in Brooklyn to study shorthand, bookkeeping, and typing
1939	Esther takes job as bookkeeper in New York with Mr. Knuth in bar supplies company. She earns \$10 per week for 6 days' work.
Late 1930s	Lilly Lutsky and Sidney Hersh marry
Jan. 14, 1940	Manny Hersh born, the first child of Lilly and Sidney Hersh
1940	Esther takes job at hotel in New York for summer. She earns \$50 plus \$10 bonus; she also earns \$1 per letter translating Yiddish to English for hotel patrons.
1940	Esther takes job as bookkeeper in New York in hosiery company. She earns \$15 per week for 5 days' work.
1940(?)	Max Jewler buys business at 2301 Champlain St. NW in Washington DC and names it Jewler's Champlain Market
June 10, 1941	Sol takes job as a carpenter with the General Services Administration (GSA) at the Jersey City Quartermaster Depot in Jersey City, New Jersey; he earns 97 cents per hour
Aug. 1941	Mordechai and Frumah Garbus die, assumed killed in Pinsk by Nazi <i>Einsatzgruppen</i>
Oct. 1941	Esther takes government job and moves to kosher boarding house on Quincy Street in Washington. She earns \$1,440 per year.
Dec. 1941	Esther moves in as a boarder at Gruber house at 1376 Sheridan Street in Washington
Summer 1942	Esther moves with Gruber family to 315 Oglethorpe Street in Washington DC
1944	Esther meets Sam Jewler on blind date setup by Lou Gruber; Esther moves back to New York at Minnie's request; Sam and Esther continue dating
Dec. 1944	Esther and Sam engaged
May 27 1945	Esther and Sam marry at Menorah Temple in Brooklyn, New York; they move in with Sam's parents at 18 <sup>th</sup> and Irving Street NW in Washington, DC
Nov. 1945	Esther and Sam move into their own apartment on 42 <sup>nd</sup> Street in Glover Park, Washington
Apr. 1946	Sol and Minnie move from New York to Washington; they buy a house on Jefferson St. NW with Lilly and Sidney Hersh
May 2, 1946	Leonard Jewler (Hebrew name Eliezer Itzhak) born in Washington D.C., the first child of Esther and Sam Jewler
1947	Lilly and Sidney move to house at Tuckerman St. and North Capital St. NW; they have second child Dinah who dies of Reyes Syndrome at 16 months
May 18, 1948	Barbara Jewler (Hebrew name Frumah Sarah) born in Washington D.C., the second child of Esther and Sam Jewler
Jun. 1948	Muriel and Murray Berg marry
1948	Esther and Sam move to house at 7507 Eighth St. NW and live there until 1964
Dec. 10, 1948	Elaine Hersh born, third child (second surviving) of Lilly and Sidney Hersh

Date	Event
Oct. 15, 1949	Susan Berg born, the first child of Muriel and Murray Berg
Oct. 8, 1952	Steven Berg born, the second child of Muriel and Murray Berg
1956	Muriel and Murray move to St. Louis, Missouri
May 9, 1959	Leonard has bar mitzvah at B'nai Israel synagogue in Washington
Mar. 28, 1961	Chava Lutsky dies in Israel
Jun. 19, 1962	Solomon Lutsky dies in Washington
1963	Minnie Lutsky sails to Israel and visits with brothers Nisson and Shmuel, whom she has not seen since 1913
1964	Esther and Sam move to Park View Towers in Takoma Park, Maryland
Oct. 30, 1966	Esther takes job at U.S. Labor Department
Jun. 1968	Leonard graduates from Carnegie Mellon University
Jun. 1970	Barbara graduates from George Washington University
Winter 1970	Jewler family sells Jewler's Champlain Market in DC; Leonard establishes Rising Earth natural food store in Cambridge, Mass.
1973	Esther and Sam move to University Towers in Silver Spring, Maryland
Sep. 26, 1979	Minnie Lutsky dies in Silver Spring, Maryland
1981	Leonard Jewler meets Andrea Rosen on blind date in New York after their mother's conversation in laundry room in University Towers in Silver Spring, Maryland
May 1981	Esther and Sam move to garden apartment in Leisure World in Silver Spring, Maryland
Aug. 1982	Esther retires from the Government
Mar. 26, 1983	Leonard Jewler and Andrea Rosen are married at Rockville Civic Center in Rockville, Maryland
Dec. 9, 1987	Samuel Morris Jewler dies
1988	Sarah Jewler meets Jay Kennedy in New York
Aug. 7, 1988	Samuel Rosen Jewler (Hebrew name Shimon) born in Washington D.C., child of Leonard Jewler and Andrea Rosen, and grandchild of Esther's
Sep. 1990	Esther moves to high rise apartment in Leisure World
Aug. 29, 2000	Esther celebrates her 80 <sup>th</sup> birthday
Oct. 20, 2001	Samuel Rosen Jewler, Esther's grandson, has his Bar Mitzvah
Sep. 28, 2002	Sarah Jewler and Jay Kennedy are married at their house in Orient, New York
Jan. 5, 2005	Sarah Jewler dies in New York, New York
Mar. 15, 2007	Jay Kennedy dies in Costa Rica
April 2, 2007	Esther Jewler dies in Silver Spring, Maryland
Sep. 7, 2019	Samuel R. Jewler marries Katherine Ashmore in Luray, Virginia

## APPENDIX D - BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Primary Sources

Interview with Minnie (Garbus) Lutsky conducted by Leonard Jewler on December 17, 1962, in Silver Spring, Maryland. Subject was Minnie's life in Czarist Russia, her travel to America, and her early life with Solomon Lutsky in New York.

Interview with Esther (Lutsky) Jewler conducted by Leonard Jewler on July 31, 1993, in Silver Spring, Maryland. Subject was her parent's history, her family's early life in New York, and the early years of having a family in Washington DC with Samuel Jewler.

Correspondence with Michael Netser conducted by Leonard Jewler from 2000 to 2019 between Washington DC and Holon, Israel. Subject was the history of the Lutsky family in the settlement of Palestine and the translation of Hebrew and Yiddish inscriptions on numerous photographs and postcards.

Correspondence with family and friends of Esther Jewler conducted by Sarah Jewler in 2000 from New York, New York. Subject was reminiscences, testimonials, and stories about Esther.

Interview with Leah (Garbus) Dolvopiaty conducted by Leonard Jewler and Esther Jewler on November 19, 2000, between Silver Spring, Maryland and Bronx, New York. Subject was the history of the Garbus family in the Pinsk area.

Interview with Esther (Lutsky) Jewler conducted by Leonard Jewler on June 17, 2001, in Washington, DC. Subject was questions and clarifications related to first draft of *The Story of Esther Lutsky Jewler and her Family*.

### Selected Books

Birmingham, Stephen: *The Rest of Us, The Rise of America's Eastern European Jews*, Boston, 1984

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Morris, Benny: Righteous Victims, *A History of the Zionist-Arab Conflict, 1881-2001*, New York, 1999

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### **Selected Internet Sites**

*Beyond the Pale Exhibit*

<http://www.friends-partners.org/partners/beyond-the-pale/index.html>

Ellis Island History

<http://www.ellisisland.com/indexHistory.html>

Gubernia District Maps

<http://www.angelfire.com/or/yizkor/gubmaps.html>

*JewishGen, Shtetl Seeker*

<http://www.jewishgen.org/shtetlseeker>

*The Jewish Community of Pinsk*

<http://www.pinskjew.com/>

*The Jewish History of Belarus*

<http://www.heritagefilms.com/BELARUS.html>

YIVO

[http://www.spanky.osc.cuny.edu/~rich/yivo/Library\\_Fact\\_Sheet.html](http://www.spanky.osc.cuny.edu/~rich/yivo/Library_Fact_Sheet.html)

## Matesky, Lutsky, and Garbus Families



Top row from left (first generation): Eliezer and Sarah Lea Matesky

Second row from left (second generation): Michel Lutsky & Chava Matesky, Mordechai Garbus & Frumah Matesky, Eliyahu Matesky & Ita Shapiro

Third row from left (third generation): Nathan, Solomon, Hannah, Bernard, Meyer, Rivka, Jacob, & Judith Lutsky

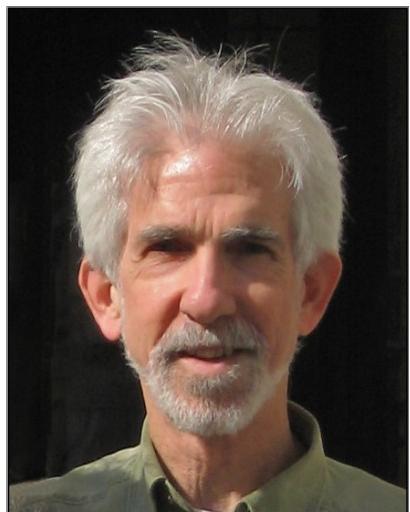
Fourth row from left (third generation): Minnie, Chava, Golda, Nisson, Israel, Itzik, & Shmuel Garbus

Fifth row from left (third generation): Dov, Hayim, Israel, Freidel, Sara, & Judith Matesky

# Hourglass Chart for Leonard Jewler



## About the Author



Leonard Jewler retired in 2015 from a career as a technology consultant and manager at a nonprofit consulting company, where he specialized in healthcare software development. Leonard has had a life-long interest in family history that began when he was a teenager listening to the stories his maternal grandmother told about her life in Czarist Russia. Over the years, he has conducted interviews of older family members and these have served as the basis of his maternal history of the Matesky/Lutsky/Garbus families, written in 2000 and updated in 2018, and his paternal history of the Zuler/Jeweler/Jewler/Menuyuk/Snider families, written in 2015 and updated in 2018.

Leonard was born and raised in Washington, D.C., and, after living in Boston and New York, resides with his wife, Andrea Rosen, in their hometown. Leonard and Andrea raised a son, Samuel Jewler, who is a social justice organizer.

Leonard received a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from Carnegie Mellon University and in the early 1970s undertook graduate studies in regional planning at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design. He left Harvard to open an early natural food store in Cambridge, Massachusetts; ran a small farm with goats and chickens; traveled across Europe on a Triumph motorcycle; and lived for several months on his sister Sarah's commune in southern Oregon. In the 2000s, he created a software system that improves patient safety by alerting hospitals to recalled products in their inventory. As an independent initiative, he conducted a study, which found that for students in Northwest Washington, D.C., there is no difference in the quality of college acceptances for those who attended public versus private secondary schools.

Since retirement, Leonard has devoted himself increasingly to researching and writing his family history, pursuing photography, getting together with friends, and generally appreciating life.

